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Netanyahu OKs cuts despite cabinet opposition

By JUDY SIEGEL and news agencies

Though Finance Minister Yaakov Neeman's proposed budget cuts continued to raise a furor among ministers yesterday, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu approved them last night, Channel 1 reported.

Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai denied last night that he had said if the defense budget were cut there would be no more government. But speaking on Channel 1's *Sihat Ve'ida*, Mordechai claimed that a NIS 500 million cut from his ministry

would cause intolerable damage to the defense system.

"If I reach the conclusion that a budget cut damages the ability of the state to defend itself, then I will not hesitate to leave. I didn't come here to get a chair or a salary," he said.

Mordechai met with Neeman yesterday afternoon to discuss the proposed cuts.

"There is not a citizen in the state that will not tell you that there has been a significant attrition in the defense budget in the last 15 years. We have arrived at the moment of truth," Mordechai

said last night. "We have real defense needs and I am sure that the finance minister understands the national needs and will comply with our demands."

Meanwhile, Neeman said last night that he has no intention of terminating the religious councils and harming the religious sector. He denied the previous claims against him and said that they were false charges backed by political interests.

"I am not retracting or resigning," Neeman said on Channel 1. "I joined the government in order to do a professional job and to

lead the Israeli economy from the road of unemployment to the road of prosperity."

Histadrut sanctions today, Page 20

Neeman said that his steps are aimed at making the religious councils more efficient, after the Religious Affairs Ministry claimed it did not have enough funds to pour into religious ser-

ices.

"I am not inflicting a thing upon the yeshivot. No students are being recruited to the army, no religious committees are terminated and no support for the students will be withheld," he said.

He also stated that merging the religious councils or relocating them to departments in the local authorities is a way of making the religious services more efficient.

The Religious Affairs Ministry expressed satisfaction last night over Neeman's remarks. In a statement, a spokesman said that he hoped to see the words put in writ-



Security forces gather around the body of Ilan Dvash, who was shot to death in his van yesterday afternoon. (Reuters)

Suspect arrested in gangland slaying of 2 men near capital

By MARGOT DUDKOVITCH

In a gangland-style shooting, two men were killed yesterday afternoon on the road that runs between Abu Ghosb and the village of Nataf, in the Jerusalem Hills, close to the Green Line.

Police and IDF troops rushed to the scene, fearing a terrorist attack, but shortly after declared the shooting was criminally motivated. The two victims had been shot by the same murderer, police said.

The assailants fled the scene in a car with Israeli license plates. Approximately six hours after the incident, police said they had arrested a man they believe was connected to the double murder and had impounded his car for testing.

"A suspect was arrested last night in Jerusalem and his car impounded. I am unable to give any more details regarding the suspect, his identity and the type of car he drove," Jerusalem Police spokesman

Shmuel Ben-Ruby said last night.

Ilan Dvash, a gardener from Jerusalem in his early 30s, was shot several times in the head and other parts of his body. He was found slumped over the steering wheel of his car. Dvash had left Nataf and was on his way back to Jerusalem when he was murdered. The back of his van was filled with plants and other gardening supplies.

The second victim, Yigal Daniel, was found lying 10 to 15 meters from the car on the side of the road. According to Ben-Ruby the 43-year-old Jerusalemite had a criminal record.

"He was involved in illegal debt collecting, money changing, stolen property, and drugs," Ben-Ruby said.

He apparently had been lured to the site by the murderers.

A local shepherd tending his flock nearby told police he saw a car with Israeli license plates and an undetermined number

of people inside drive into the area. One man fired several shots at close range at another man and then threw the body to the side of the road, the shepherd said.

At the same time, Dvash came upon the scene and apparently witnessed the murder. The gunman, perhaps fearing Dvash would identify him, shot Dvash at point-blank range several times before fleeing.

Avraham Halbesberg, head of the Jerusalem-based Magen David Adom station, said the station received a report of shots being fired near Nataf at 3:16 yesterday afternoon. A mobile intensive care unit was sent to the site.

Meanwhile, he said, the station received further reports that shots had been fired at a bus and more ambulances were sent to the scene, only to be recalled en route after it was determined that the shooting incident involved a car and only two people.

See SUSPECT, Page 2

Netanyahu tells 'Jerusalem Post':

We'll redeploy during final status talks

By JAY BUSHINSKY

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu confirmed yesterday that Israel will proceed with further redeployment in the West Bank if his proposal for the immediate start of final-status talks, instead of negotiating further interim agreements, is accepted by the Palestinian Authority.

In an interview with *The Jerusalem Post*, he firmly denied that the idea of dealing with the core issues—such as Jerusalem, refugees, and borders—is not an evasive tactic designed to enable the IDF to stay in the territories indefinitely.

However, he said there could be no additional pullbacks unless the Palestinians fulfill their commitment to eliminate the terrorist infrastructure in their midst and round up the alleged terrorists whose names were submitted to them by the Israeli authorities.

"What good is it for us to make new concessions—give more pieces of land which will simply be used as launching grounds for additional terrorist attacks against us?" he asked.

In response to a question about the

inevitability of a Palestinian state, Netanyahu said that form of self-determination is unacceptable because a sovereign Palestinian state could forge military alliances with

Israeli delegation meets Ross, Page 2

hostile powers such as Iran and Iraq.

He also discussed the issues likely to come up during US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright's talks in Jerusalem next week.

"I certainly hope the visit will contribute to improving the situation between us and the Palestinians," he said. "The immediate thing we're looking for is Palestinian fulfillment of the obligations to fight terrorism and dismantle the terrorist infrastructure."

However, Netanyahu rejected Arafat's contention that Israel's demand that he arrest 150 individuals suspected of terrorist activity is a "dictate."

He contended that "the one struc-

tural flaw in Oslo is the failure of the PA and of Arafat, to live up to the commitment he gave [prime minister Yitzhak] Rabin, namely, 'You give us territory, and we'll fight terrorism from that territory.' That simply has not happened."

Asked about the prospect of peace talks with Syria, Netanyahu said he is "encouraged" by the way President Hafez Assad and he were able to exercise crisis control and stop the recent escalation of warfare between the IDF and Hizbullah in southern Lebanon.

However, he dismissed Assad's demand that Israel evacuate the entire Golan Heights and withdraw to the June 4, 1967 armistice lines, as a non-starter.

His most pressing concern is Iran's "rapid" buildup of a ballistic missile capability, due to Russia's unlimited and unrestricted technological assistance. He said the religious extremists who established the Islamic Republic of Iran 18 years ago want to stockpile biological, chemical, and eventually nuclear warheads for their missile arsenal.

The full interview will appear in tomorrow's Jerusalem Post.

PA unable to pay salaries

Shaath requests emergency funds from European donors

By STEVE RODAN

The Palestinian Authority, plagued by funding cutbacks and delays, has told officials that salaries for August will be delayed indefinitely, Palestinian sources said yesterday.

"Many people have not received salaries for July and now we've been told that our paycheck for August won't arrive," a PA official said. "We don't know when they will come."

The funding crisis has resulted in the current tour of Planning and International Cooperation Minister Nabil Shaath to Western European nations to request emergency cash and a schedule for pledged money to arrive to refill the coffers of the PA. Officials said that until June, the PA had received \$60 million out of \$1.35 billion earmarked for new and existing programs.

Officials said the donor nations have been reducing their aid

steadily. In 1995, the nations gave the PA \$400 million. Last year, they dispersed \$260 million.

The cash crisis became acute after the Mahaneh Yebuda suicide bombings on July 30 when Israel, to protest the lack of PA cooperation in the investigation, held back tax revenues meant for the PA. The following month, the US Congress held back aid as well.

See PA, Page 2

Eitan announces planned closure of Science Ministry

By JUDY SIEGEL

Science Minister Michael Eitan, not two months on the job, shocked his 90 staffers yesterday by revealing plans to close the ministry down.

If the proposal is approved, Eitan

would remain science minister, as a part of the Prime Minister's Office, but his staff would be dismissed. The advisory functions would be carried out by the National Research and Development Council and the operational functions by the Ministry of Industry and Trade.

The Science Ministry was established in 1982 as an outgrowth of the National Research and Development Council. It was regarded as a way of getting Prof. Yuval Ne'eman and his Tehiya Party into the Begin government.

Eitan's proposal was denounced by Zvi Yannai, until last month director-general of the ministry and

now adviser to the Knesset Science and Technology Committee.

"This is a mistaken decision that will cause irreversible damage to science in this country. I hope it won't be implemented," said Yannai.

He said former science minister Ze'ev Begin, who resigned from his post for political reasons, had spent six months just learning the ministry. "But Eitan, after only a month in the job, has produced radical—but not serious—plans for the ministry."

A science ministry, said Yannai, is needed to plan, coordinate, and serve as a single address to press for more financial support for sci-

ence.

Eitan, who is to be replaced in less than a year by Deputy Defense Minister Silvan Shalom in a rotation agreement, called his staff in (50 tenured staffers and the rest from manpower agencies) to tell him of his plans. He said because of the importance of science, he wanted to push through a law that would make the National Research and Development Council a statutory body and include 20 professional advisers.

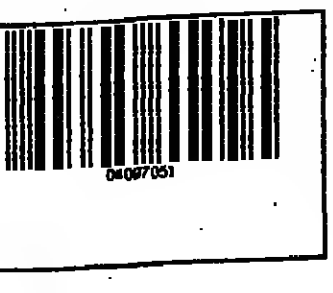
He told the speechless staff that he had begun to discuss the matter with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Industry and Trade Minister Natan Sharansky, and that

they had not yet given their approval.

Shalom, whom Eitan previously said would be consulted on all major policy matters, is reportedly not enthusiastic about the idea.

The Science Ministry has an annual budget of NIS 200 million, most of it to support scientific research and cooperation.

If Eitan's idea is carried out, it wouldn't be the first time that a minister closed his ministry: Early last year, Yossi Beilin oversaw the closing of the Economics Ministry during his tenure as minister, arguing that it had been established for political reasons and was superfluous.



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Ben-Elissar after 4-hour-talk with Ross: Syrian negotiations could be reopened

News agencies

WASHINGTON—Ambassador to the US Elihu Ben-Elissar yesterday raised hopes that negotiations with Syria could be reopened, following a four-hour meeting of US mediator Dennis Ross and a high-level Israeli delegation.

Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, at Israel's urging, has made Damascus a stop on her first trip to the area next week.

Ben-Elissar did not explain his optimism. He described the meeting with Ross as "good, frank, and constructive."

Ross and other State Department officials avoided any description of the meeting with cabinet secretary Dan Naveh and Uzi Arad, foreign policy adviser to Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

Naveh, however, criticized the Palestinian Authority for failing to fulfill an obligation to root out terrorists in areas under its control.

"The main issue on the agenda is how we move forward in ways that we have further progress on security," Naveh said. "The Israeli government position is that the PA hasn't done enough in terms of its obligation to fight terrorist organizations and infrastructure."

"We believe it is crucial it take these measures and it will take these steps in terms of fighting terrorism if we want to see further progress in the peace process," he said after the talks.

Ross is to meet with a Palestinian delegation today.

The separate sessions are designed to set up Albright's visit to the Middle East. She will stop in Israel, Palestinian-held territory, Egypt, Jordan, Syria, Saudi Arabia, and possibly Lebanon beginning next Tuesday.

It will be her first trip to the area as secretary of state.

State Department spokesman James Foley declined to list the issues Ross and the Albright would discuss with the two

sides.

However, Foley noted the security situation had improved. Foley also called on Israel to release all taxes, withheld from Palestinian workers, to the PA, and he criticized Jewish settlers who buried stoves at Palestinian workers on a US-funded road project in Hebron on Tuesday. "We regard it as a serious incident," he said.

The PA said yesterday it does not expect Albright to make much headway during her visit.

"I would urge not to raise expectations from the Albright one-time visit," said chief PA negotiator Saeb Erekat.

"I don't think Madam Albright will be able to remove the damage inflicted on the peace process by [Prime Minister Benjamin] Netanyahu on a one visit. It will take much more than one visit."

Calling on Washington to stop Netanyahu "before it's too late," Erekat said he must halt settlement activities and comply with interim agreements.

PA Police detain IDF officer

By MARGOT DUDKEVITCH

The Israeli District Coordinating Office in Hebron lodged an official complaint with the Palestinian Authority yesterday, after an IDF officer was detained by Palestinian Police.

According to the IDF Spokesman, an IDF officer was stopped by Palestinian police at a roadblock south of Dura.

The spokesman said the IDF officer was detained for 15 to 20 minutes before being allowed to leave.

He denied reports that the Palestinian Police had aimed weapons at the officer.

In Hebron, an IDF patrol fired rubber bullets to disperse stone throwers in Shalalish Street. The IDF Spokesman said no one was injured.

Earlier in the day several incidents of cars being stoned on the Gush Etzion tunnel were reported, no one was injured.

Meanwhile, as two illegally built Palestinian homes between Hebron and Yatta were destroyed by the Civil Administration.

The Palestinian Society for the Protection of Human Rights and the Environment claimed that Israel had intensified its

house demolitions since last month's Mahaneh Yehuda bombing.

The human rights group charged that the demolitions are an effort by the government to consolidate control over the West Bank and Jerusalem, before final status negotiations take place.

The charges were denied by Housing Ministry spokesman Moshe Eilat.



Border policemen stand guard yesterday, as a bulldozer demolishes an illegally built Palestinian home on the outskirts of Hebron. (AP)

Golan Heights Druse cross border to study in Syria

Alleged spy's appeal of remand denied

By DAVID RUDGE and Ilim

A group of more than 80 Golan Heights Druse crossed into Syria yesterday to study at universities there.

They were the first of several hundred students who are due to go to Syria in the coming weeks to either begin or continue studies.

Hundreds of residents of Golan Heights Druse villages gathered on the Israeli side of the border to see the students off and give them last-minute greetings to relay to brethren on the Syrian side.

All of those crossing the border underwent strict security checks before boarding the UN buses taking them the short distance to the Syrian side, where hundreds more Syrian Druse and officials were waiting to greet them.

Yusef Abu Jabal, of Majdal Shams, said they regard

Damascus as their capital and Syria as their homeland. The Syrians also help them with tuition, accommodation, and other matters, which they could not receive in Israel or elsewhere, he said.

The crossing was more significant than usual following allegations by some Golan Heights Druse that Israel is trying to disrupt the visits by students.

The allegations followed the recent arrest of psychology student Aliham Naif Abu Salah, a resident of Majdal Shams, on charges of spying for Syria. Abu Salah, 30, has been studying at Damascus University.

Haifa District Court yesterday rejected Abu Salah's appeal of her remand until tomorrow, with Judge Micha Lindenstraus saying that after his examination of intelligence and police material he saw no reason to overturn the Acre Magistrate's Court decision to extend her remand.

Lindenstraus said the investigation is now at an important point, and releasing her on bail or to house arrest could harm it.

Abu Salah's lawyers had argued that since she has crossed into Israel from Syria over the past four years and had never been arrested; since when summoned to appear for questioning she had come freely, but was sent home because the investigating officer wasn't there; and since days passed after that before she was arrested in her home, there is clearly no pressing reason to keep her in custody.

Police claimed that she had given several different versions of events during questioning, and some things she had said were not true.

Members of her family and residents of the village charged that the arrest was politically motivated.

Abu Salah is to appear before a judge again tomorrow.

Bentsur: No reduction in strategic threat

News agencies

Foreign Ministry Director-General Eytan Bentsur is to tell the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva today that the peace process has not reduced the strategic threat to Israel.

In presenting the government's position on disarmament, Bentsur is to note that the Gulf war, and attempts by countries like Iran and Iraq to acquire nonconventional weapons, support Israel's presumption.

Arms control arrangements

require an environment of rapprochement and peace, as exists in Europe and in other areas of the world, Bentsur explained yesterday.

Army Radio said, meanwhile, that Israel would ratify a worldwide ban on chemical weapons under certain conditions. The report was denied by the Foreign Ministry.

The radio said Bentsur would tell the conference that Israel would ratify the treaty if the ban is also signed by Syria and is observed by the other countries in the region.

However, Foreign Ministry spokesman Aviv Shiron said there would be no mention of chemical weapons in Bentsur's planned address.

The treaty took effect in April. It was signed by 165 countries, including Israel.

However, only 88 ratified it, thus opening themselves up to outside inspection.

The US government suspects that Israel, along with Ethiopia, Iran, Syria, Egypt, Libya, Pakistan, Myanmar, Vietnam, China, and North and South Korea

have or produce chemical weapons.

The radio report said Israel has been reluctant to ratify the treaty because of the refusal of Iraq, Syria, and Libya to join the convention.

The international convention prohibits the use, production, stockpiling, and transfer of chemical weapons.

Skeptics say it remains flawed until countries like Russia and Iraq, which have acknowledged having chemical arsenals, also join the accord.

Families to see censored report on chopper crash

By BATSHEVA TSUR and Ilim

The High Court of Justice yesterday ordered the IDF to allow the families of 15 of the soldiers killed in the helicopter collision on their way to Lebanon to see the report containing secret information about the crash of the two choppers.

Military prosecutors said they are prepared to give the families the Ivry Committee's report on the crash, but that it would have to be censored by field security. After holding consultations, the families agreed.

Justices Eliezer Goldberg, Yitzhak Zamir, and Dorit Beinisch said that, if there are differences of opinion between the two sides over the sections cut by the censor, an arbiter would be appointed to decide whether the cuts were warranted.

One of the bereaved parents, Meir Shalit, father of Omer Shalit, said: "No one can bring back our boys... but I believe the public should know what caused the tragedy and someone has to bear responsibility for it."

Mordechai ready to discuss 'Jezzine First' proposal

By DAVID RUDGE

Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai said yesterday that he is prepared to negotiate an IDF pullout of Jezzine and arrive at a settlement with the Lebanese in a matter of days. He said the depth of the withdrawal would match the depth of the peace.

"We need to pursue every possible path that could lead to an agreement, directly or indirectly, in which there will be security and we will be outside [of Lebanon]... In the short or the long range we need to arrive at a situation where we will end the conflict between ourselves and the Syrians," he said.

The Labor Party praised Mordechai's statements, saying he had adopted party head Ehud Barak's plan for withdrawing from Lebanon and calling on the government to do the same regarding Barak's plan for restarting negotiations

with the Palestinians.

Meanwhile, a senior source in Northern Command yesterday expressed surprise over media reports, first broadcast on Channel 1, that soldiers involved in last Thursday's incident in which five Golan Brigade soldiers were killed and five others wounded in a brushfire had several times asked permission to evacuate the area, but were told to stay put.

The source said that the press reports were based on partial information, while the committee of inquiry into the incident is continuing.

The committee, said the source, is expected to conclude its investigation within a few days and all the findings — except details which could harm security — are to be made public.

The inquiry being headed by Maj.-Gen. Gabi Ashkenazi has been taking testimony from the soldiers involved in the inci-

dent, those at the scene, the rescue forces, and the commanders.

The source said it appears the media report was based on testimony of soldiers who had lost comrades, and that for their sake and that of the bereaved families it would have been better to wait the outcome of the inquiry committee.

Meanwhile, fighting continued in south Lebanon with a number of mortar attacks on IDF and South Lebanese Army positions in the security zone. There were no casualties.

Batsheva Tsur adds:

President Ezer Weizman met with representatives of two groups of parents of soldiers in Lebanon who are pressing for a withdrawal. He told them that he, too, has no patience for the ongoing conflagration there, but that there was no alternative but to remain in the security zone until a political solution is found.

CUTS

Continued from Page 1

Matza told Yosef that the proposed changes in the health system would jeopardize the health of the poor and establish a two-class health system.

Matza said he was "sick and tired of the way the finance minister works — quickie, careless decisions and bringing populist proposals that can't be implemented and that cause more damage than benefits."

In the afternoon, a meeting between the directors-general of the two ministries ended in frustration. Health Ministry Director-General Gabi Barabash reported back to Matza, who instructed him to walk out of the talks.

Kupat Holim Clalit voiced its opposition to the Treasury's plans to allow health funds to charge members directly for certain ser-

vices. The Treasury wants to allow each health fund to set its own basket of health services, instead of the iron-clad basket set down by the National Health Insurance Law and paid for by income-linked health taxes.

Neeman's proposals "will take the system years backwards," said Clalit director-general Dr. Yitzhak Peterburg. "It will discourage health funds from accepting low-income members and create a superfluous second layer, thereby increasing the health funds' deficits."

Before the law came into effect in January 1995, five percent of the population lacked health insurance and were dependent on the mercy of hospital emergency rooms. Peterburg added, noting that the "bad old days" would return with Neeman's proposed reforms.

Absorption Minister Yuli Edelstein also came out against Neeman's request to cut the

Absorption Ministry's budget by NIS 40m.

"It's inconceivable that at a time when such a large and worrisome increase has been reported in unemployment among new immigrants, the Finance Ministry should ask us to cut our budget in a way which will primarily hurt our efforts to find them jobs," Edelstein said.

Recent figures indicate 11 percent of new immigrants are unemployed, and a quarter of the nation's unemployed are new immigrants.

An interministerial committee comprised of representatives from the Absorption and Labor and Social Affairs ministries convened yesterday to approve 50 new training courses for immigrants, mainly in high-tech plants, which are to open by November throughout the country.

Aryeh Dean Cohen contributed to this report.

SUSPECT

Continued from Page 1

Police, Border Police, and IDF units rushed to the scene and initial reports suggested a terrorist attack.

A helicopter hovered in the area searching for possible assailants fleeing the site and security forces combed the surrounding hills.

In mid-June, a woman from nearby Moshav Beit Nekofa was shot as she was driving her car near the village of Har Adar.

Dvash's father Yosef arrived at the scene, devastated and broken, after an employee of his son informed him that he hadn't returned.

"Ilan had left his worker at a hospital in Jerusalem and drove here. When he didn't return, his worker called me saying he was worried. I was watching television and worried by the news, [so] I decided to come here," he said.

Accompanied by police officers, he identified his son's body before setting out to inform his family in their Kiryat Hayovel home.

The diplomat said the funding delays come as the PA has improved its ability to satisfy the donor nations' demand for an accountability of the funds, an earlier complaint of European governments.

The diplomat said the funding delays come as the PA has improved its ability to satisfy the donor nations' demand for an accountability of the funds, an earlier complaint of European governments.

"We are starting the school year," Al-Qaq said. "In Gaza, we run three shifts a day. To sustain education, we need 60 new

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Jordanian photographer exhibits here
Jordanian photographer Yahya Massad stands yesterday next to one of his photographs, now being exhibited at the Jerusalem Theater.
(Bryan McBurney)

A-G: Appel's threats out of line

By BATSHEVA TSUR

Both Attorney-General Elyakim Rubinstein and State Attorney Edna Arbel yesterday expressed surprise at reports that businessman David Appel had intentions of pressing charges against the State Attorney's Office for closing the file against him on grounds of insufficient evidence.

Rubinstein said that such a charge is out of line and has no legal grounds. Appel attacked the prosecution Tuesday, saying that he had demanded that Arbel either clear him of any involvement in the Bar-On Affair, or press charges against him. Instead, Rubinstein and Arbel announced that the file was being shut because there was not enough evidence.

A file against Director-General of the Prime Minister's Office Avigdor Lieberman was closed for the same reason. Lieberman said he was examining the possibility of taking

legal action to change the reason given for closing the file.

Arbel said yesterday that the prosecution is considering this request.

"Closing a file for lack of evidence is problematic for those concerned," Rubinstein said, "because on the one hand there has not been an indictment, and on the other it was not closed for lack of guilt."

"This is part of the complexity of life," he explained, "but it is in no way a reason to cast any kind of aspersions on those who made the decision."

Rubinstein stressed, as he has in several instances during attacks on the prosecution over the past few months, that Arbel and her staff work most professionally and are entitled to the fullest esteem from the public for their honesty.

"In the specific case we are talking about," he added, "most of the picture was painted in the reports on the Bar-On Affair that Arbel and I published in April, and this picture indicates why this was the rea-

son for closing the file."

Arbel told reporters: "The criticism [of the decision] was meant to weaken the hands of public officials, but it will not achieve this goal."

But she said she understands the difficulty a person faced by not being cleared. There are other ways to deal with this problem, she said, such as looking over the material and appealing against the reasoning given for closing the file.

"It's not for me to give legal advice," she added.

She said that neither Lieberman nor Appel had been called to give evidence during the past few months while the police investigation against them continued.

"I continued in other ways," she said, "and I cannot give details."

Shas MK Aryeh Deri is now the only figure involved in the Bar-On Affair who faces indictment.

Arbel said she believes that a hearing - if indeed Deri wants one - would be held within a month.

Ben-Ari likely to be charged Sunday

The prosecution hopes to present its charges against Zvi Ben-Ari, formerly known as Gregory Lerner, on Sunday, State Attorney Edna Arbel said yesterday.

She said the charges would not involve murder and would focus on economic crimes.

Supreme Court Justice Ya'acov Kedmi yesterday rejected an appeal from Ben-Ari's lawyer to hold a

repeated debate on the extension of his client's remand for an extra 15 days, on the grounds that there would be no murder charges.

But Kedmi said that the request from the prosecution for the extended remand had not been based on suspicions of murder and that therefore there were no grounds to hold another hearing on the subject. *Batsheva Tsur*

Survey: Haredim less inclined towards peace

Jerusalem Post Staff

According to a recent study, the more observant Israeli Jews are, the less likely they are to favor the peace process and the more likely to fear Arabs.

While only 20.5 percent of haredim that the Tami Steinmetz Center questioned on August 31 said they support the peace process, 43% of Orthodox, 82% of traditional, and 78% of secular Jews said they support it.

Slightly more than half (54%) of haredim said they oppose the peace process, compared to 44.5% of Orthodox and 7.5% of secular Jews.

The survey of 500 people, who were asked to identify themselves as haredi, Orthodox, traditional, or secular, had similar findings

regarding attitudes toward the Oslo Accords.

As to whether the peace process will succeed, 52% of haredim think there will be peace in the near future, compared to 27% of secular Jews.

When asked if they think that the Arabs would destroy Israel if they could, all of the haredim said yes. In contrast, 77.5% of the Orthodox, 68.7% of the traditional, and 52.5% of the secular Jews said yes.

Haredim also had less faith in Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat than secular Jews - 79% of haredim agree that Arafat is more of a terrorist than a politician, compared to 31% of secular Jews, 52% of traditional Jews, and 68.5% of Orthodox Jews.

The survey has a 4% margin of error.

HEBREW PRESS REVIEW

ORLY AHARONI

The verdict that the Egyptian court pronounced on Azzam continues to reverberate throughout the press this week. The commentators unanimously attack the Egyptian justice system.

Ma'ariv's Shmuel Shnitzer claims that the media fuss around the trial is an indication that no one in Egypt actually believes Azzam is guilty. "The press and opposition exploited the trial to express resentment and wrath towards Israel." He adds that this was a show trial and the only missing element was the defendant pleading guilty.

Efraim Sidon, also in *Ma'ariv*, compares Azzam to a victim in a Greek tragedy. "Why should a private, innocent man pay the price for Egypt's wrath against Netanyahu's government policy? Go for the strong. Not the weak." He adds that Egypt has sent a very clear message: No Israelis wanted here.

Eitan Haber, in *Yedioth Aharonot*, attacks the media, MKs, and politicians that used this trial for publicity. The publicity, he states, "also determined Azzam's verdict."

B. Michael, in *Ma'ariv*, states that the Israeli system also includes its share of indecency and injustice. He refers to the injustice within the territories "where the most fundamental human rights are trampled... an impervious and arbitrary legal system prevails and turns thousands of people hostage to the whims of any officer."

Formulating objectives
Commentators are attempting to formulate the main objective of US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright's visit. Oren Shohor, in *Yedioth Aharonot*, states that she must neutralize the fuse of the second redeployment. "An explosive fuse that, if not neutralized, will bring a big and violent explosion."

Yosef Harif of *Ma'ariv* believes that Albright must focus on reshaping the Oslo Accords instead of renewing the process in its current form. He claims that the agreement suffers from con-

traditions, and it is imperative to redefine the objectives themselves.

Meanwhile, Gideon Samet of *Ha'aretz* claims that Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu is responsible for the stalemate and any lack of initiative. He writes that the only thing that could bring to some progress is an uprising in the territories. "The extent of involvement depends on the amount of spilled blood."

Peace and economic prosperity
Akiva Eldar writing in *Ha'aretz* draws a direct connection between peace and economics. He states that it is unlikely that Netanyahu demands that the PA terminate terrorist infrastructure, while Israel terminates the economic infrastructure in the territories. There is nothing that harms Arafat's ability to fight terror more than the damage to the economic infrastructure of the PA and the conditions in Gaza. "Terror must be turned into a bad investment."

Writing in *Ha'aretz*, Yehezkel Dror focuses on the contributions of peace to the Israeli economy. He states that peace will contribute to the development of the economy. However, he rejects the claim that there is no prospect of economic development without peace. He claims that economic cooperation does not necessarily strengthen ties but could also increase friction. "Israel must emphasize the economic contributions of peace both to Arab countries and Israel and simultaneously prove that it is capable of achieving economic prosperity without it."

Buying or selling?
Marking the 100th anniversary of the first Zionist Congress in Switzerland, Elyakim Ha'etzni of *Yedioth Aharonot* attacks Prof. Shlomo Avineri's claim that as long as peace has not been achieved, Zionism has not achieved its goal. Ha'etzni states that in light of this approach, one might take the key out of Herzl's hand and give it to Arafat, Hafez Assad, or Saddam Hussein. "Should we buy another 100 years of Zionism without peace or sell it as a non-Jewish, non-Zionist state with peace?"

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NEWS

in brief

Bassiouny: No prisoner exchange in works

In an interview with Army Radio yesterday, Egyptian Ambassador Mohammed Bassiouny said that a suggestion to exchange Israeli citizen Azzam Azzam, sentenced to 15 years by Egypt for espionage, for Egyptians being held here is not feasible at this time. He said that he did not negate the possibility of such a deal, but said that "it would be dependent on an agreement between Egypt and Israel, and no such agreement currently exists."

Survey to map radon gas areas

The Environment Ministry is carrying out a national survey to try to map areas with high concentrations of radon gas. The survey includes placing sensors in 1,800 ground-level buildings. It is being carried out together with the Geocartographic Institute and AMN Co., which won the tender for it.

Residents of ground-floor homes who want to participate in the survey can call AMN at (09)-767-8296 or (09)-765-3912 or contact it via the Internet (<http://www.radon.co.il>). Only suitable applications will be answered. Participation is free.

Hebrew U. PhD student staff end strike

Doctoral students who are members of Hebrew University's junior staff are going back to work, after signing an agreement to end their strike on Tuesday.

Meanwhile, negotiations are continuing with Masters students who are also part of the junior staff. A university spokesman said efforts would be made to solve problems caused by the junior staff's strike, which has been going on for several months. New exam dates will be set for exams that were not given and papers that were not graded will be gone over. The strike by junior staff at Tel Aviv University and Haifa University is still continuing.

Prison for indicted seniors suggested

MK Ophir Pines (Labor), a former head of the Authority for the Rehabilitation of Prisoners, has suggested to Internal Security Minister Avigdor Kahalani and Prisons Service Commissioner Amos Azmi that a special prison for the elderly be established. He noted that there are currently 66 prisoners over the age of 60 in the nation's prisons. He said that prevailing conditions in the prisons are unsuitable for those of advanced age.

Local Authorities head slams Health Ministry

The Health Ministry yesterday rejected claims by the Center for Local Authorities that it had not completed preparations for the transfer of school health services from the local authorities. Council chairman Adi Eldar maintained that the health of "tens of thousands" of children is "in jeopardy" due to delays in making arrangements.

Eldar called on parents to check whether their children are getting the proper services, including nurses' and doctors' examinations and vaccinations. If they are not, he urged them to complain and put pressure on the ministry.

Burned-out nursery gets temporary quarters

Forty-one three- and four-year-olds at a Reform nursery school in Mevasseret Zion attended class in a temporary facility provided by the local council yesterday. Their school, operated by Kehillat Mevasseret Zion, was destroyed in an arson attack Sunday night.

At a Tuesday night council session, all but two local council members voted to let the nursery operate in a municipal building for one month, until the fire damage is repaired. The Shas representative opposed the plan, and the NRP representative abstained.

Panel: Set up genetic database for families of missing children

By JUDY SIEGEL

The establishment of a genetic database of families whose young children went missing and of individuals who believe they were "stolen" in the early days of the state is the aim of a new Knesset subcommittee.

The Knesset Science and Technology Committee, chaired by Dalia Itzik (Labor), yesterday decided to set up a body of scientific experts and MKs that could help the two generations find each other. The work of the subcommittee, said Itzik, would not clash with that of the Cohen Committee, which over the past two years has been hearing testimony from families—most of them of Yemenite origin, but others from 26 other countries, including some

Ashkenazim.

An open phone line set up recently by the committee elicited calls from 470 individuals, most of them parents of missing children, and some people who suspected they had been "stolen" from their parents. Genetic tests that confirmed US resident Tsila Levine was born to the Ormessi family, whose daughter was missing but claimed dead by the authorities 49 years ago, provided impetus to the committee's decision.

Science Ministry Director-General Dr. Mordechai Bashari said his office would find money to cover the NIS 700,000 estimated cost of tissue-typing of the hundreds of individuals who suspect their child was "kidnapped" and given for adoption or that they themselves were taken from their biological parents.

Prof. Adam Friedmann, head of the Hebrew University-Hadassah molecular biology unit in Jerusalem, said he and his staff would volunteer to conduct the tests, charging NIS 500-NIS 600 for each test to cover only the cost of materials.

Committee members criticized Health Minister Yehoshua Matza, who was not present at the meeting, for saying that his office would not finance the £6,000 cost of sending for testing in Britain the bone remains removed from 10 graves at Petah Tikva's Segula Cemetery where Yemenite immigrant babies were supposedly buried five decades ago. Ministry chief scientist Prof. Bracha Rager said learning the identity of the bones was a national issue and not a health matter and therefore

must be financed by the Treasury.

Prof. Yehuda Hiss, head of the ministry's Institute for Forensic Medicine at Abu Kabir, said the remains of the infants in the cemetery were so disintegrated due to their tender age and the amount of time that has passed that Israeli experts were "unable to extract any DNA." This, he said, required sending them to a British lab which has much experience.

Friedman and a geneticist from Hadassah's tissue-typing lab claimed that the large majority of the cases, which involve taking genetic profiles of live individuals would be routine. Even bone samples could be typed in most cases, unless their condition was so poor that no DNA could be extracted.

Prof. Doron Lance, head of the

Human Genome Project at the Weizmann Institute, said it too had the most advanced automatic equipment for testing and typing large numbers of individuals.

Some MKs said that in view of an apparent "battle of prestige" among the labs, the new subcommittee would have to decide exactly how to go about the testing.

Itzik noted that while private contributors had offered to help finance the genetic database, "this government will be making a big mistake if it doesn't do it, as a way of building the public's confidence. HU geneticist Dr. Hassan Khatib noted that the making of blood and saliva samples must be conducted quickly, or parents will pass away and identities will no longer be able to be confirmed.

Diana's funeral to be broadcast live

By HELEN KAYE

Both Channel 1 and Channel 2 will broadcast Princess Diana's funeral live from London with back-up by local commentators.

David Witzman will broadcast from London for Channel 1 from 12:20 p.m.-3 p.m. with Oren Nahari in Jerusalem. On Channel 2, the funeral will be broadcast within an expanded Meet the Press from 12:30 to 2 p.m. with Arad Mir in London and Oshrat Kottler in Jerusalem together with The Jerusalem Post editor Jeff Barak.

Diana's death early Sunday morning in Paris has apparently hit many Israelis hard. Keith Lawrence, the new British Council deputy director, said that there has been a steady flow of calls, and pointed to a huge bouquet of flowers in the lobby of the council offices on Hayarkon Street. "The landlords sent us that," he said, and picked up the phone to tell a distraught woman caller that if she sent her poem to the princess to the office it would be forwarded.

Near the old Tel Aviv central bus station, a merchant named Eli said, "A terrible thing, she was a nice young woman, a person."

"Now if it had been her husband," he added, "it wouldn't have bothered me."



Russian archbishop visits

Absorption Minister Yuli Edelstein receives Archbishop Mark, the head of the German branch of the New York-based Russian Orthodox Church Outside Russia, at the ministry in Jerusalem yesterday. During their meeting, Edelstein condemned the Palestinian Authority's forced transfer in July of the church's monastery in Hebron to the Moscow-based Orthodox church, saying it was a violation of the Oslo Accords.

(Ari Hal'Scope 80)

JDC launches book festivals

By ARYEH DEAN COHEN

Can books be used to save the People of the Book from assimilation? American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee officials and local Jewish organizations in the former Soviet Union are betting they can. And so they are launching community-sponsored Jewish Book Festivals this month in 31 cities aimed at offering Jews a chance to get to know their heritage better.

The first festival is currently under way in Tbilisi, Georgia, and similar events will be held in cities from Belarus to Kazakhstan this month.

The program is aimed at introducing Jews to the Jewish religion, traditions, history, literature and culture. It has been named "Ofek," a Russian acronym for Community Festivals of the Jewish Book, but

organizers also are hoping to expand participants' Jewish horizons — the Hebrew meaning of "ofek."

Participants will see books in Russian translation on anything from Jewish history to modern Israeli literature. There also will be other cultural activities, including films, dance and theater performances.

"Over the past few years, JDC-sponsored community centers and libraries have developed communal programming and activities around events in the Jewish calendar to help bring Jews back to Judaism," says Marina Fromer, the JDC's director of Library Programs for the former Soviet Union. "But the importance of learning has always resonated within the Jewish community and these festivals offer Jews the chance to come together as a community and actively celebrate their connection to

Jewish history, culture and tradition."

In some areas in the FSU, the book festival will be the first community-wide Jewish event of its kind.

"The festivals are especially exciting for Jews in the periphery, in places like Krasnoyarsk in Siberia, Alma-Ati in Kazakhstan, and Tbilisi, Georgia, which are definitely off the beaten path in terms of community-wide Jewish events. These communities take great pride in their programs, from an exhibition of Jewish children's art and a Jewish cooking competition in Siberia to a rare display of Jewish paintings found in the basement of an old synagogue in Kazakhstan.

"In the future, these festivals will hopefully provide a continuous vehicle for the development of Jewish self-expression and identity in the FSU."

155m. NIS needed to fight unemployment 'Post' rated 6th most popular paper on Net

By JUDY SIEGEL

The committee assigned to combat unemployment in development towns called for NIS 155 million to be devoted to reducing unemployment in these areas.

"A budget of NIS 155 million is needed to fight unemployment. Some two-thirds of this will come from savings in unemployment and insurance payments, income that is being paid out anyway. In addition, a net budget of only tens of millions of shekels will be able to shrink the unemployment rate in developing areas by a meaningful extent," according to a statement by the Labor and Social Affairs Ministry released yesterday.

Ministry Director-General Yigal Ben-Shalom, who heads the com-

mittee the government formed last month, said its goal is to reduce the unemployment rate in development towns to that in the center of the country. The committee's recommendations, which it submitted to the cabinet on Sunday, include job training programs, helping the unemployed complete their education, replacing foreign workers with Israelis, developing the economy in peripheral regions, providing funding to small businesses to help them expand and providing transportation to areas where jobs are available.

Labor and Social Affairs Minister Eli Yishai praised the committee's work, saying he is sure its recommendations will be effective in lowering unemployment. (Tim)

The Jerusalem Post Internet Edition has been ranked the world's sixth most popular on-line newspaper by "100 Hot," an impartial organization that ranks the top 100 web sites in each of a variety of categories. The Post (at <http://www.jpost.co.il> or <http://www.jpost.com>) followed Pathfinder (Time Magazine), USA Today, The New York Times, CNET and the Weather Channel.

Farther down were The Washington Post (seventh), The China Times in Chinese (eighth), The Wall Street Journal (ninth), TotalNews (tenth), The Electronic Telegraph (fourteenth) and The Los Angeles Times (seventeenth).

Among the electronic newspapers considerably lower on the list were The Times of London (22), The Sydney Morning Herald (24), The Times of India (30), The Bangkok Post (42), The New York Post (47), The International Herald Tribune (49) and Al Quds (82).

"100 Hot" (located at <http://www.web21.com>) is unusual in that it ranks popularity according to intentional visits to homepages of web sites, and not chance clicks, via hypertext, anywhere in web sites into which Internet users might wander.

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Chief rabbi requests glatt kosher meat at hospitals

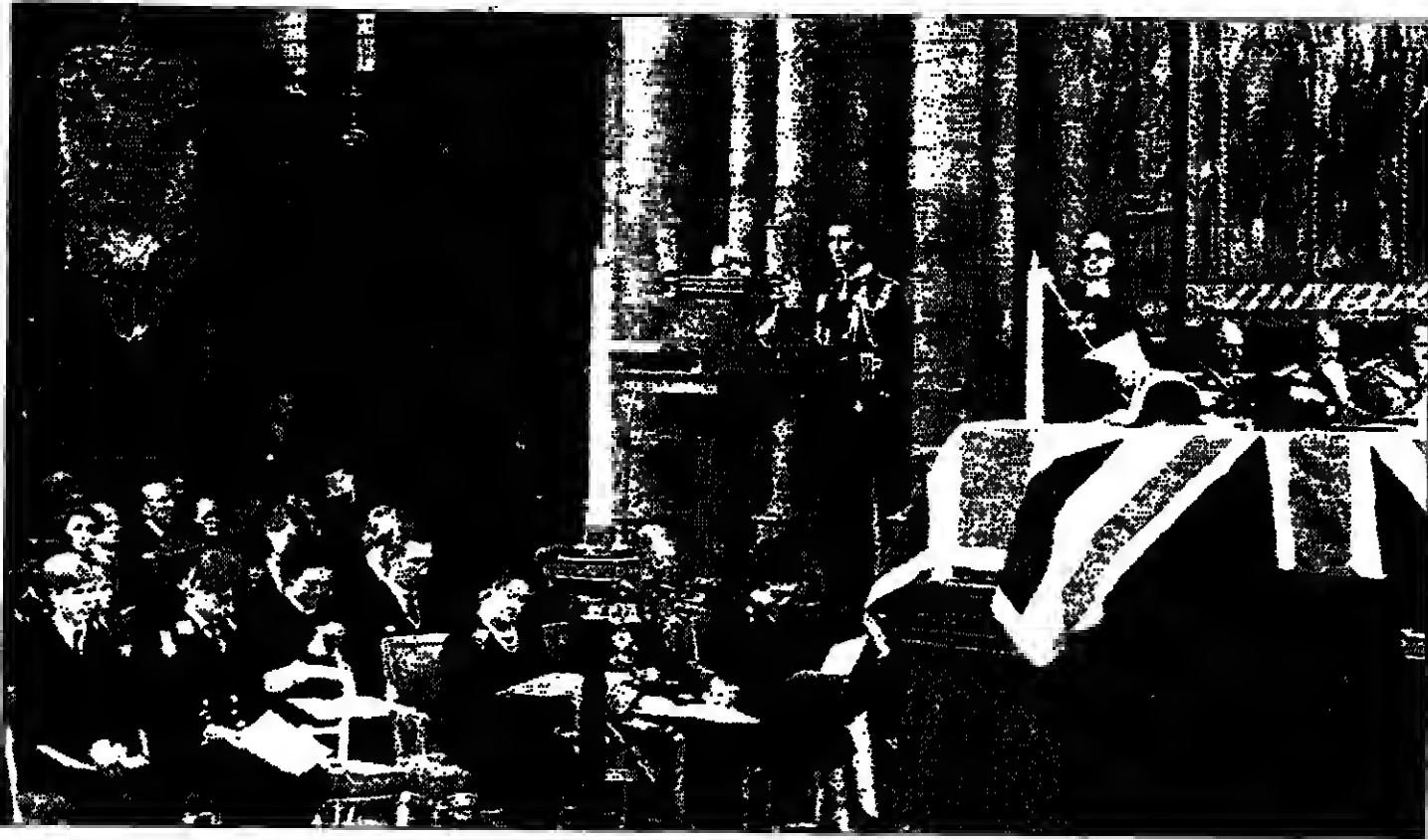
By JUDY SIEGEL

Sephardi Chief Rabbi Eliahu Bakshi-Doron yesterday asked Kupaat Holim Chalit to offer glatt kosher meat in its hospitals, adding that he hoped this would be possible in all public hospitals around the country.

A Chalit official said that it was doing much to make the religious and haredi community feel comfortable in its institutions, but that the cost of glatt kosher meals would be high. Soroka Hospital in Beersheva offers such high standards of kashrut, as do the Orthodox-affiliated hospitals.

On a tour of Ha'emek Hospital in Afeka, the chief rabbi said that if such meat were provided at hospitals around the country, the higher costs would be reduced. Health Ministry spokesman Dabi Ben-Ami said if the chief rabbi made such a request of government hospitals, the ministry "will look into the matter."

Millions to line route of Diana's funeral procession



The British royal family at the funeral service of Lord Mountbatten, which was held at Westminster Abbey on September 5, 1979. It was the last British 'Royal funeral'. Saturday's funeral for Diana, Princess of Wales, will be a similar affair, although palace officials have said it would be of a 'unique' nature. Lord Mountbatten, great-uncle to Prince Charles, was one of the victims of an IRA bombing of his yacht off the coast of Ireland. (AP)

By MICHAEL SLACKMAN

LONDON — Buckingham Palace conceded Tuesday that it was caught off guard by the massive and seemingly endless public display of grief for Princess Diana.

The first acknowledgment came in the early morning Tuesday, when thousands of people continued to wait in line for up to seven hours to sign five condolence books set up in the lobby of St. James's Palace.

Before the sun rose, the queen's staff increased the number of condolence books to 15.

"Obviously, we didn't anticipate this," said a palace spokesman. "We would have put more books out in the first place." By midday, about 300 people an hour were signing the 15 condolence books.

But the backpedaling by the palace continued late into the day as a controversy erupted over the relatively short one-mile route the cortege will take on its way to Westminster Abbey for the funeral.

When Diana and Prince Charles were married, more than 1 million people turned out to view the two-mile procession. With officials saying Tuesday they expect the funeral to draw a crowd of two million or more if not larger, they acknowledged that the likely congestion prompted concerns for public safety.

After defending the length of the route, and insisting it would not be changed, the palace pointed out that spectators could also view the casket after the service during its 60-mile ride to the burial site in Great Brington.

"When you think about it, the procession to Westminster Abbey is just the first part," said the palace spokesman. "After that, people can see the casket in the car." Asked if the casket would be carried in an open hearse, the spokesman said: "That detail hasn't been worked out yet." The palace also said it was considering allowing people to stand in the street, to make even more room.

In response to growing public pressure for some kind of national expression of grief, the palace announced late Tuesday that immediately after the 11 a.m. funeral, expected to last no more than 50 minutes, there will be a formal minute of silence across Britain.

The palace also said it plans to invite 500 representatives of the charitable groups Diana worked with to participate in the procession.

Many are expected to be children and the disabled.

Also announced Tuesday: an official charity fund in memory of the princess, to be distributed to charities associated with her.

Administrators said checks should be made out to: "The Diana, Princess of Wales Memorial Fund" and sent to Kensington Palace, London, W8 4PU, United Kingdom. Messages of condolence can be sent to the same address. The law firm representing Diana, Mishcon de Reya, said donations to the fund could also be sent to: P.O. Box 1, London, WC1B 5HW, United Kingdom.

To further help satisfy the intense public interest in the funeral, officials said they will allow television cameras in the church, as well as closed-circuit cameras to broadcast to a large screen that will be erected outside the Abbey. Speakers also will be set up in the street outside the service.

The controversy over details of the funeral, most of which have been eclipsed by the expressions of grief, began with the decision not to give Princess Diana a state funeral, which entails a public viewing and public burial.

While Princess Diana was technically no longer royalty, because of her divorce last year from Prince Charles, public sentiment was strong for full state obsequies. Instead, the palace crafted what it called a "unique funeral for a unique person," that included elements of the state funeral.

Newsday

Village fears change once Diana is buried there

GREAT BRINGTON, England — Shortly after Princess Diana buried her father, Earl Spencer, inside the family chapel, an intruder scaled a wrought iron fence, broke into the crypt and wrenched off the delicate marble hands adorning an effigy to one of her ancestors.

For 20 generations, members of the Spencer family have been buried beneath a private chapel tucked in the corner of a 13th-century church in this small hillside village. On that day five years ago, villagers recalled, they were incensed that someone vandalized the monument to the very first earl

ever buried there. But now many in this small, close-knit community, where the church is left unlocked and unattended on most days, were wondering what awaits their village when Princess Diana is buried here Saturday.

In fact, many villagers, who initially welcomed "Diana's homecoming," have begun to dread a transformation of their picture-postcard village, dotted with thatched-roofed homes and just two shops — a pub and a post office-general store — into a world-class tourist destination.

"Everybody's initial reaction was, 'Yes. This is the right place for her to be,'" said Christine Whitley, the village postmistress and a 20-year resident of Great Brington. "Then you start to think, 'What is this going to do to the village?'"

"We will all work together," the priest's wife, Jean MacPherson, told parishioners who went to the rectory Tuesday to express concern about the future of the community. "Worst-case scenario, we'll lock it up until we can figure out what to do," the vicar, David MacPherson, said. Newsday

65 die in Cambodia air crash

By ROBERT BIRSEL

PHNOM PENH (Reuters) — Sixty-five people, most of them foreigners, were killed yesterday when a Vietnam Airlines plane carrying 66 people crashed while trying to land at Phnom Penh airport, aviation officials said.

At least four people, including a baby and a four-year-old child, were brought into a city center hospital alive after the crash but the two adults and the boy later died, a doctor at the hospital said.

The Tupolev Tu-134 was coming in to Phnom Penh's Pocheotung Airport from Ho Chi Minh City, formerly Saigon, in southern Vietnam, when it crashed about 300 meters from the runway after what appeared to have been an aborted approach, officials said.

"We are still investigating. The first thing we're looking into is the weather," Vy Sovath, chief of flight operations at Phnom Penh airport told Reuters.

Heavy rain drenched the airport area but it was not clear if it started before or after the crash.

The head of Cambodia's civil aviation authority said the plane's flight recorder had been found in the wreckage three hours after the crash. He said four accident investigators had flown in from Vietnam to help with the inquiry.

Another aviation official said the plane had been coming in to land but the pilot apparently decided to abort the landing and reved up his engines in a failed bid to get clear of the ground again.

The two children who survived the crash were in serious condition late on Wednesday, hospital officials said. An official at the Thai embassy said one of the two was an 18-month-old Thai boy.

"He's recovering. He has a broken leg and he's getting treatment now," the embassy official



Cambodian rescue workers sift through the wreckage of the Vietnam Airlines Tupolev Tu-134 near Phnom Penh airport yesterday. (Reuters)

said, adding the child had been travelling with his mother.

Wreckage and bodies littered the rice field where flight VN815 crashed. A Reuters television cameraman said he had seen onlookers rifling through the pockets of some victims while others carried off bits of the aircraft. Police and troops fired into the air to disperse the crowd and prevent people rummaging through the wreckage of bags and bodies, the cameraman said.

Vietnam Airlines and an official at Phnom Penh airport said the plane was carrying 60 passengers and a crew of six. Cambodian officials said the bodies of the victims were being taken away for identification.

Most of the passengers were foreigners, including South Koreans, Australians, Japanese, Americans and Canadians, an airline official in Vietnam said. A Seoul Foreign Ministry spokesman said as many as 21 South Koreans, including six members of a medical team, could have perished in the crash. "It looks like 21 South Koreans were on board, and all of them are thought to have died," he said, citing information from South Korean diplomats in Vietnam. Taiwan state television said at least 22 Taiwanese were believed to be among the passengers.

A witness at the scene said the aircraft appeared to have grazed

the roof of a simple wooden thatch house, slammed through a stand of coconut trees and smashed into a nearby rice field. Residents in the area said no one on the ground was killed or injured.

Vy Sovath said there was heavy rain and strong wind when the plane came down, but a British businessman who was at the airport said there was heavy cloud but no rain when the plane crashed.

"It was brooding, very dark, but it hadn't started raining yet," Dan O'Donnell told Reuters. He said heavy rain began shortly after the crash. "It was coming in, tried to land, bounced, and nosedived," he said.

Ankara, Amman dismiss fears of Turkish-Israeli military exercise

News Agencies

Turkey yesterday dismissed Syrian and Egyptian criticism of naval exercises it plans to hold with Israel and the US in the Red Sea and the Mediterranean.

"We think the reactions, which emerged probably because the real context of the exercise was not well understood, are unjust and exaggerated," Turkish Foreign Ministry spokesman Sermet Atacani told a news briefing.

"This will be a search and rescue operation; it does not have any strategic aspect," he said.

An Israeli Embassy spokesman in Ankara said on Tuesday the three countries would hold joint naval maneuvers in the eastern Mediterranean at some time between November 15 and 25.

Atacani declined to give exact operation dates but said in answer to a question that November was a "possible" time.

The news of the planned exercises prompted harsh criticism from both Cairo and Damascus on Tuesday.

A Syrian Foreign Ministry spokesman said: "The announcement of the war games while US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright prepares to visit the region to rescue the peace talks is astonishing and cannot be understood."

He said the announcement was "a desperate attempt to pressure Syria to change its principled stand," adding that

Syria will not change its position in the peace talks with Israel.

Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Moussa told reporters: "The maneuvers represent a negative message, they are a negative step."

But Jordan's Prime Minister Abdul-Salam Majali said yesterday that the planned military exercises are not a threat to the Arab world.

"I don't believe it [the exercise] is directed against the Arab world... and certainly not against Syria," Majali told a news conference.

Growing military ties between Turkey and Israel have long upset the Arab world, especially Syria with which neighbor Turkey has a number of disputes. IAF pilots have trained in Turkish skies under a military accord signed last year.

Majali also expressed optimism that a regional tour by US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright next week would lead to reviving the Middle East peace negotiations.

"There is some feeling of an optimistic change" to be brought about by Albright, Majali said.

He welcomed Albright's address last month when she called for accelerating Palestinian-Israeli talks on a final settlement.

Majali said Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu might change his hard-line policies with the Palestinians once "there is pressure from the international community."

Fear spreads through Algerian capital

PARIS (Reuters) — Fear and panic have spread through outlying areas of Algiers and gripped the heart of the city of three million people since the savage Sidi Rais massacre last week, according to Algerian journalists.

In a capital that has grown used to nightly gunfire since Moslem fundamentalists were deprived of a general election victory in early 1992, journalists say a single gunshot now spreads alarm.

Yesterday, *Liberte* newspaper termed the climate one of "psychosis — obsessive fear," and said this is attributable to the Sidi Rais massacre, in which between 98 and 300 people were killed.

But it added that rumors are being manipulated to suggest "terrorists" can strike where they want.

"Since the Rais slaughter, there are daily reports of waves of general panic in the middle of the night, mainly in the old market town and other isolated neighborhoods," it said.

But fear has also spread to parts of Algiers itself, it said. The slightest suspicious noise sends sleepless people rushing outside, prey to a wave of panic.

It said that since two families were slaughtered in Miramar, the men of nearby Zghara (on the heights of Bab el-Oued in Algiers) "keep watch each night, alongside communal guards, scrutinizing the least movement..."

At about 1 a.m. on Tuesday

morning, the guards gave the alert, signalling the "presence of terrorists."

"The sirens in Touta school, occupied by the communal guard, soon reverberated through the district... terrorists had been seen on the side of the gully, heading down from Zghara towards Deux Moulins," *Liberte* said.

"General panic followed. Several families, living in huts, fled towards neighboring mosques in the storm which had just started... Men armed with axes and knives gathered in groups ready to defend themselves."

"A pregnant woman who took refuge in a mosque gave birth prematurely because of fear," the paper said.

Many people are staying away from work in case of attacks.

The Algerian government blames Moslem fundamentalists for the violence, which erupted shortly after the authorities scrapped a general election dominated by radical Islamists in January 1992.

About 60,000 people have been killed since then.

Just after the Sidi Rais massacre, in which the government says 98 were killed and 120 wounded but residents say up to 300 died, the same paper said people were fleeing to seek refuge in parts of the capital like El Harrach and Baraki.

Thousands of people have been killed in a series of massacres which started last November, par-

ticularly in the Blida, Medea and Ain Defla areas. In some attacks, all the inhabitants of tiny communities have been wiped out.

The savagery exhibited in the massacres has increased over the months. Most victims have had their throats cut. Increasingly often, heads have been cut off, people burned and children disembowelled.

Algeria's medical union, many of whose members have to deal with the results of slaughter, said of the Sidi Rais massacre: "Even the fetuses were taken from their disembowelled mothers to be mutilated and massacred."

The killings have spurred thousands of people to abandon their homes and land to seek some safety in bigger towns.

Late last month Prime Minister Ahmed Ouyahia paid tribute to the courage of rural dwellers when he turned out specially for a meeting of a farmers' association.

El Watan, an Algerian newspaper widely respected for its reports on security, yesterday spoke of the "disquieting silence of the authorities" in face of the panic triggered by the latest massacre.

"The climate of obsessive fear, which started with the residents of the outskirts, has begun to reach the heart of the capital..." it said.

Meanwhile, Algerian security forces have killed 47 Islamist rebels including their leader in an

operation still going on southwest of the capital, a national newspaper said.

Al Khabar said the operation in Sidi Bel Abbes, 375 km. southwest of Algiers, began several days ago and involved troops, gendarmes, and volunteer forces known as patriots. Arms and documents had been seized, it said.

As is normal practice in Algeria, where security reports are subject to draconian laws, there was no mention of any casualties among security forces.

In another operation, which was also continuing, security forces killed 15 terrorists near Sabra, in the Mousatt mountains close to the frontier with Morocco last Friday.

The newspaper said the final toll in the Sabra operation, in which "heavy military equipment" was being used, is still not known.

About 60,000 people have died in the violence which erupted shortly after the authorities cancelled a general election in which radical Islamists had taken a huge lead.

La Tribune newspaper said that another group of rebels operating in the region of Oued Smar, in the Algerian capital, had been "wiped out" during clashes with security forces on Monday.

It gave no figure for the number killed. According to the newspaper the group had terrorized suburbs in the east of the capital, a city of around three million.

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Southern hospitality

A Jewish family alleges that their children are being persecuted in their rural Alabama public school by classmates and teachers alike

By SUE ANNE PRESSLEY

TROY, Alabama — As the only Jewish students in the rural Pike County public schools, the Herring children say they have learned a great deal about religion — the fundamentalist Christian variety.

When Paul Herring, 14, was sent to the school office to be disciplined for disrupting class, he was allegedly ordered by the vice principal to write an essay on "Why Jesus Loves Me." When David Herring, 13, failed to bow his head during a school assembly prayer, a teacher allegedly reached over and lowered it for him. After Sarah Herring, 11, heard a minister deliver a fire-and-brimstone sermon at her elementary school, she said she had nightmares for weeks about burning in hell.

The children's parents, Sue and Wayne Willis, said they have complained frequently about the activities, as well as name-calling and other alleged abuse by other students, only to be dismissed as troublemakers and to be told, "This is how we do things in Alabama."

Recently, aided by the state chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union, they filed suit in US District Court against the school system for violating their children's religious freedom and persecuting them for being Jewish. The suit asks that the religious practices and persecution be stopped at once, but does not ask for any specific monetary damages.

"Every day that I send my children to Pike County schools, I wonder if I am sending them into a war zone," said Sue Willis, 35. "The moment one event is over, a worse one follows on its heels... My children are growing up believing that America is a caste society and they are unouchables — except for the purpose of getting beat up."

Attorneys with the ACLU contend that this is not just a story of one family's ordeal, but is representative of a pattern of institutional intolerance in Alabama toward anyone who is not Christian, and a continued flouting of the separation of church and state.

ACLU lawyers say the attitude filters down from Republican Governor Fob James Jr., who has supported a circuit judge's right to display the Ten Commandments and to open his court sessions with prayer, and a state legislature that has passed school prayer statutes four times in recent years. It also indicates, they said, a national trend of religious practices creeping into public schools, citing Gideon Bible distributions and a tum toward "student-initiated prayer" during school assemblies.

But John Key, the Pike County school superintendent, said he does not think the Herring children have been persecuted, and he believes school officials worked hard to resolve any problems the family has brought to their attention. He is dis-

turbed, he said, about "the sensationalism ascribed to this by the ACLU," and the unflattering depiction of his students and teachers in the local news media.

"I'd say 95 percent or more of our children have never come in contact with a Jew or anything other than Christianity," said Key, whose system has about 2,600 students, three-quarters of whom are poor. "Most have never heard of a swastika... I can't comment on some of the behavioral problems, but most of what I'm getting from the teachers is that it's a two-way street. Sometimes children, and I'm not going to say these, bring these things on themselves. The teachers try to prevent it, but if you have kids who brag and talk, other kids are going to do things to them."

The Willises charge that teachers and principals are as guilty of persecution as the students, citing a long list of incidents over the six years since the family moved from the Seattle area to Pike County, about 80 km. southeast of Montgomery.

Among other things, their suit details what have been "essentially Christian worship services in the guise of school assemblies," including a "Birth of Jesus" play at a school assembly, a "Happy Birthday, Jesus" party in Paul's class and regular distributions of Bibles in the classrooms by representatives of Gideon International.

On one occasion, the suit charges, Paul's teacher ordered him to remove a Star of David lapel pin he was wearing because she said it was a prohibited gang symbol; on another, a teacher responded to Sue Willis's complaints by allegedly replying, "If parents will not save souls, we have to."

The Willises said teachers and principals often have done little or nothing to prevent students from harassing the children, particularly Paul and David, who, like Sarah, are Sue Willis's children from an earlier marriage.

According to the suit, the two boys have been taunted as "Jewish jokers" and "Jew boys"; swastikas have been drawn on their lockers, book bags and jackets; and their yarmulkes have been ripped from their heads during High Holy Days, as classmates played "keep away" with them.

"We are still hearing in Pike County, 'We will excuse your children from religious exercises,'" said Pamela Summers, a volunteer attorney with the ACLU who is handling the case. "Well, religious exercises shouldn't be going on."

"I would hate for folks to have the

impression we don't have any progressive, open-minded people in the state of Alabama. That is not true," she continued. "But these things, in terms of the explicitly Christian prayer at student assemblies and at school events, are very typical throughout the entire state of Alabama."

The most recent school prayer statute, passed by the state legislature in 1993, was struck down as unconstitutional this year by a federal district court in Alabama, Summers said. But "the governor has said he will appeal that case all the way to the US Supreme Court, not on the basis of constitutionality, but on the theory that federal courts do not have jurisdiction over the First Amendment... The statute allowed nonproselytizing, 'student-initiated, volunteer prayer. The problem that occurs is, you have school officials selecting students to deliver these prayers, and they are always explicitly Christian.' Most end with the words, she said, "In Jesus's name we pray."

After the Pike County suit was filed, James released a statement denouncing religious discrimination and "any attempts by school officials to force students to participate in religious activities against their will," press secretary Alfred Sawyer said.

As for James's support of the school prayer statute, Sawyer said, "The governor is not for mandated prayer in the schools. He does believe if students want to pray, they can... He believes the students in Pike County should be free to exhibit their faith."

As the school year opens in Pike County, the Willises said they are fearful for their children, now joined by the youngest, Rachel Willis, in kindergarten. They are afraid the children's spirits have been crushed by their experiences, and they note with sadness that David, who used to say he wanted to become a rabbi someday, no longer speaks of the subject.

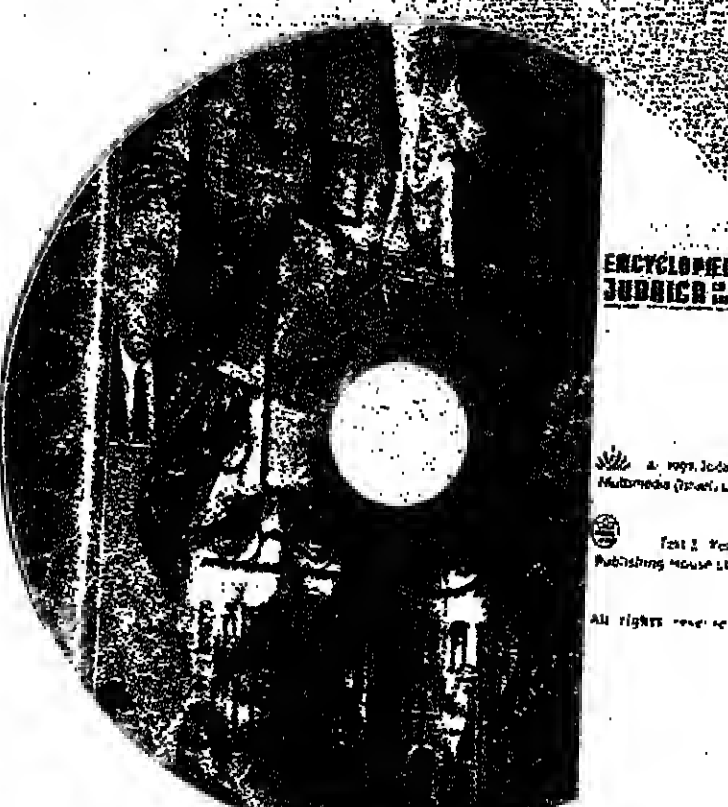
Sue Willis said teachers have turned their backs to her as she tried to complain about the practices and the alleged abuse. And although Key wrote the family a letter as a follow-up to their complaint about the "Why Jesus Loves Me" essay, saying he wanted to ensure this would not be repeated, he made mention of the vice principal's "well-intentioned direction" and suggested the topic was historically based "upon Paul's understanding that Jesus was a Great Prophet and Teacher." That did little to satisfy the Willises.

(The Washington Post)



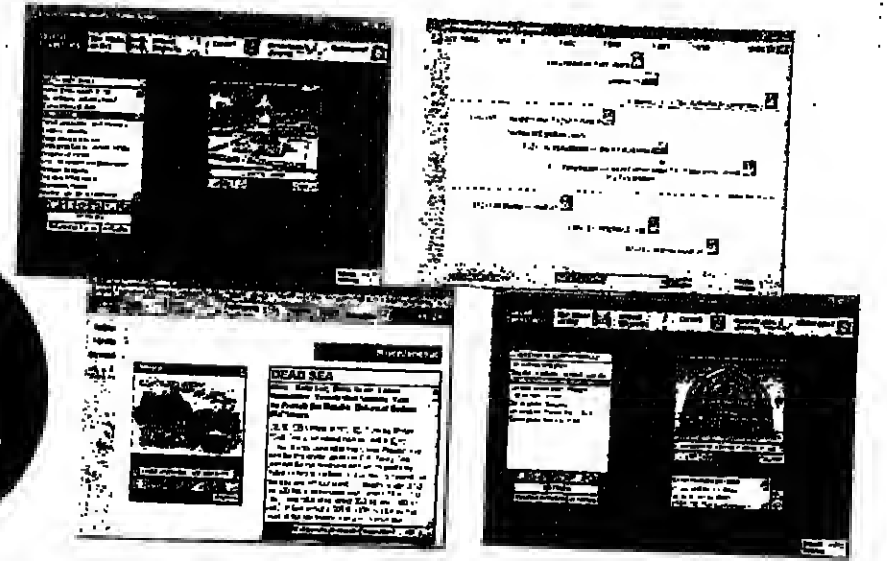
Just say no
Italian environmentalist Green Party leader and European MP Carlo Ripa di Meana (right) held a press conference this week to illuminate the "Ten good reasons to say no to the 2004 Olympics in Rome." Ripa di Meana, pictured with a fellow Green activist, pointed to various unclear aspects of Rome's candidacy, particularly the financial one.

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Going solar

By MARTHA H. HAMILTON

Could global warming help solar energy find its place in the sun? Solar power, long regarded as not much more than a curiosity, is rapidly growing and attracting new investment because of concerns that carbon dioxide and other "greenhouse" gases produced by burning fossil fuels may bring devastating changes in temperature and precipitation worldwide.

"We think solar is something which could be a valuable business for us," said John Browne, group chief executive of British Petroleum PLC. BP, recently has invested \$20 million in what it says will be one of the largest and most technologically advanced solar cell manufacturing facilities in the world, to be located in Fairfield, California.

Solar power represents less than a 10th of a percent of the total market for energy. And even though industry officials expect it to expand by about 30 percent this year worldwide, its words will still be only a little more than \$1b. a year. The US is the largest producer of solar equipment, but most of the sales are outside the country.

Browne recently broke ranks with other oil and gas executives when he said in a speech at Stanford University in May that BP believes that the possibility of climate change cannot be discounted and should be acted upon. Part of BP's response, he said, is to develop alternative fuels for the long term.

Privately held SunLight Power International has attracted investments from two European insurance companies that are concerned about the storms and rising oceans that might result from global warming. Swiss Reinsurance Company has invested \$2.75m. and GAA Kapital, which is associated with Rolf Gerling of the German Gerling Insurance Group, invested \$2m. in the US company, which plans to supply and service solar power to communities in developing countries.

Bruno Letsch, head of Swiss Re's Investment Center Europe, said the company was attracted both by the economics and the environmental potential of the venture.

"We are starting a business that focuses on providing electric service to rural regions of developing countries where there is no electric service and where the expectation for gaining electric service is out so many years that we provide an option for people to get what we all consider one of the basic commodities in life," said Jeff Serfass, president of SunLight Power.

The company, which is already operating with a partner in the Dominican Republic, goes into such an area and offers electricity for a fee, then installs, operates and maintains the equipment at a monthly rate.

The traditional markets for solar power are in areas of the world that power lines don't reach, according to Harvey Forest, chairman of Solarex Corporation. But he said there is a growing market for solar to supplement power in countries served by traditional electric generating facilities, especially in Germany and Japan. The company is a unit of Amoco/Enron Solar, a joint venture of the oil company and Enron Corporation, a natural gas and electricity trading and marketing firm.

Recently, at a UN meeting focusing on climate change, President Clinton announced plans to place a million solar energy systems on roofs in the US by 2010.

Solar power for the most part is more costly to produce than electric power from generating plants fired by oil, coal or natural gas. However, in remote areas where the only other possible source of electricity is diesel-powered generators, solar is competitive, according to Solarex's Forest.

Solarex is No. 2 in the worldwide market for solar power. Siemens Solar Industries is No. 1. The Japanese firm Kyocera Corporation is No. 3, followed by British Petroleum.

Solar industry executives hope that, as the market for solar power grows, economies of scale and technological innovation will drive prices down.

(The Washington Post)



Embattled tabloids give Diana unusually dignified coverage

By EUGENE ROBINSON and CHRISTINE SPOLAR

LONDON — Britain's raucous tabloid newspapers were uncharacteristically quiet Monday as reports that pursuing photographers might have contributed to Princess Diana's death led to talk of tough new privacy laws, curbs on electronic eavesdropping and other strictures on the prying press.

Usually blustery and bellicose, many tabloids opted for lyrical, subdued language this week. *The Sun* dawned with "Good Night, Sweet Princess" across its front page. By evening, the *Standard* was describing the plans for "A Unique Funeral for a Unique Person." Its coverage included, however, a tearful James Hewitt, who had kissed and told in a book about his affair with Diana, gushing about how he "loved her and missed her terribly." *The Mirror* displayed a luminous Diana surrounded by a black border and the headline: "1961-1997." *The Express* wrote about "The Saddest Homecoming," with a color photo of a somber honor guard hoisting her coffin high.

Perhaps more significant, however, the tabloids had nothing to say Monday regarding the allegation that their hunger for photos of Diana and boyfriend, Dodi Fayed, set the stage for Sunday's tragic accident.

Paparazzi photographers were chasing the car Diana and Fayed were riding in early Sunday when it crashed in a Paris tunnel, killing the couple and the car's driver. The London tabloids have been among the paparazzi's best clients, sometimes paying tens of thousands of dollars for candid or embarrassing shots of celebrities. And no one was more of a celebrity than Diana.

"He hasn't done any interviews so far, and as far as I know he's not



Blustery tabloid headlines about the private life of Princess Diana gave way this week to more subdued language. (AP)

planning to," said a spokeswoman for Stuart Higgins, editor of *The Sun*, Britain's largest-selling tabloid, and arguably the most aggressive over the years in pursuing the Diana story. "We don't think this is the right time to talk about some of the press issues you're probably interested in," said a spokesman for *Daily Mirror* editor Piers Morgan. *The Mirror* is *The Sun's* major competi-

tor in chronicling the lives of Diana and the other royals, and the paper that broke the story of her relationship with Fayed.

The circumstances of the accident gave fodder to critics who claim the tabloids routinely go too far. The chairman of Britain's Press Complaints Commission, an exercise in press self-regulation, said he intends to launch an urgent review

of paparazzi practices. Martin Bell, a BBC reporter who covered the Bosnian war and now is a member of Parliament, said he expects the "tremendous" public outcry will generate interest in laws that could restrict extreme coverage.

Bell said British lawmakers could consider a law similar to the US Freedom of Information Act, to ensure press access to certain public records, and another that he referred to as a "non-harassment law, for a press that has proved to be unable to regulate itself." For years, critics of the papers routinely invade the privacy of celebrities, politicians and other public figures.

With daily circulation figures in the millions, Britain's tabloids portray themselves as unabashedly working-class newspapers, as opposed to the "quality" broadsheet papers like *The Times*, *The Guardian*, the *Daily Telegraph* and *The Independent*. Instead of weighty analysis, the tabloids offer a steady diet of sensation and scandal, with as much titillation as they can muster. *The Sun*, for example, is famous for its scandalously titled "Page Three Girls." The tabloids aggressively pursue politicians they suspect of having affairs and think nothing of stalking out a suspected mistress's apartment or using telephone lenses to peek through windows.

They unapologetically trumpet their political views. *The Sun* is a Conservative Party paper, the *Mirror* a Labor Party paper. They compete against one another fiercely and do not hesitate to pay for news if they think they have to.

For the tabloids, day in and day out, no story is bigger than the royal family. All the tabloids employ royal-watching reporters, some of whom have become celebrities in their own right, often with six-figure book deals, because of their royal scoops.

Among the most prominent are James Whitaker, who writes for the *Mirror*, and the *Mirror's* Nigel Dempster, who has been at the game so long that he's generally considered the dean of the royal press corps.

Diana was the biggest royal story of all. It was the tabloids that broke the story of her disillusionment with her marriage, the story of her intercepted phone conversation with a close male friend, and finally the story of her new relationship. Diana often complained about the coverage, recently saying that "any sane person would have left [Britain] long ago" to escape it. But the princess also used the tabloids, calling some of her veteran chroniclers to convey messages to the royal family and burnish her own image.

And so it remained until the end. Monday, *The Daily Mail* ballyhooed the last exclusive interview with the princess, a two-page spread by writer Richard Kay. "When she rang me up Saturday evening, she was as happy as I have ever heard her," it reported in 2.5-cm. high type and breathless prose.

Kay wrote that Diana was considering withdrawing from public life.

"She was going to complete her obligations to her charities and to the antipersonnel land-mine cause, and then, around November, would completely withdraw from her formal public life." *The Mirror's* Whitaker was focused more on himself Monday. Under a 5-cm. tall headline that proclaimed, "I am crying as I write this... I cannot believe Diana is dead," he wrote about how important Diana was to his life.

In the same tabloid, under a headline that said "I feel shame... and anger and an aching loss," chief photographer Kent Gavin gave his readers this insight: "She lived through the camera lens and she died because of it." (The Washington Post)

Greener pastures

Russians are slowly abandoning the isolated and bitter cold Far North

By ADAM TANNER

MAGADAN, Russia — Vladimir Ivanov cannot wait to leave Russia's Far North, where he has had enough of some of the world's coldest weather and grimmest living conditions.

"It's cold, there's no sun, you don't get a tan or any vitamins, food is expensive," said Ivanov, 30. "In the south, people are happier, and there's sun."

Across the Far North, from the border with Norway to Alaska, Russians are gradually migrating southward. Ivanov is one of thousands in the region of 11.5 million trying to save up enough money to say goodbye to bleak summers and lonely bitter winters with just a few hours of gray light a day.

Since the fall of communism in late 1991, the Far North has lost 850,000 people, about 7 percent of the population, according to the Federal Migration Service.

"The North is not as attractive as it once was," said Vyacheslav Kobets, Magadan region's deputy governor. "The main reason is that many enterprises set up in the planned economy could not survive in the market system."

Although intrepid pioneers have settled the country's Far North for centuries, Stalin's repressive methods forced a mass settlement of these remote regions, many of which were built on the backs and bones of prisoners.

The Magadan region, 8,000 kilometers east of Moscow, was home to the most notorious Gulag camps from the 1930s to 1950s. Their inmates mined rich gold deposits.

In Norilsk, Stalin's henchmen developed one of the world's biggest metals combines. In Sakha, formerly Yakutia, one of the coldest inhabited places on earth, the focus was diamonds.

After Stalin's death in 1953, forced labor became less acceptable, and the Soviet government began offering workers big salaries and benefits to go north. With Soviet prices uniform across the country, many saved money for a few years and then returned home further south.

Today, with the local economies in shreds, the Far North lures few and many want to leave.

"People stay for two reasons: they have nowhere else to go and there's hope for a better life," said Miron Atlis, an adviser to Magadan's International Pedagogical University. But many have lost hope.

In Vorkuta, 1,300 km. northeast of Moscow, coal miners this year have gone on hunger strike, blocked trains, refused to work and protested to receive wages for which they have been waiting for as long as a year. Few have taken note of their plight.

In Norilsk, 320 km. north of the Arctic Circle, pollution is so bad that the average resident dies at the age of 50. And there's no quick route south or anywhere else for that matter, as it is cut off from Russia's roads.

Fog haunts Magadan throughout the year, rarely allowing the

sun to shine on prefabricated slabs that make up the bulk of the city's housing. Abandoned construction sites haunt the city, a massive rusting fishing boat lies keeled over on its side at the center of the bay.

Yet some grow to love the Far North, especially its natural beauty.

"The conditions are severe, but you get used to it," said Sergei Bekarevich, head of Magadan's Regional Museum. "I couldn't live without things from the north like fishing, hunting and picking mushrooms." Fans of the Far North say the people are also friendlier.

"Our relations between people are warmer than other parts of Russia," said Alexander Belichenko, a fishing industry executive. "Perhaps the northern climate inspires people to help each other more." Others turn to drink to relieve life's dreariness. "Anyone can get used to even the most difficult conditions," said Lyudmila Bulakh, who heads a religious radio station in Magadan. "Unfortunately, many turn to alcohol or drugs for comfort."

Many residents of the Far North have seen their fat paychecks of the past — as well as their hopes of leaving — demolished by the wild inflation of the early post-Soviet years.

Vladimir Ivanov is one of the lucky ones because he still has a job driving a taxi and his wife is a sales clerk. But their wages are far smaller than they were when he came to work in the fishing industry in 1991 and she in a gold mine.

He hopes that by selling his apartment and saving up wages, they can make a fresh start in Krasnodar, one of Russia's warmest and most southerly regions.

Yet experts say young families like Ivanov's are the very people remote regions need to survive economically. "Perhaps it would be good if those who cannot work, such as old people, left the region," said Olga Vorobyeva, a department head at the Federal Migration Service. "But it's bad if people who can work the resources leave the region."

"Government policies to realize a balance should be worked out," she added.

The Russian parliament and government occasionally focus on the issue, and the election platform of Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin's party advocated free or affordable new housing for those who have worked for many years in the Far North.

Yet, at a time when Russia is unable to pay its soldiers and teachers on time, more socially ambitious programs of moving populations south remain a distant hope.

"A mass of people want to leave but they can't," said Alexander Fesik, spokesman for the governor of Magadan. "They are the hostages of the North." (Reuters)

Arab author hits at Middle East graft from afar

LONDON — To his enemies, Said Aburish is an ill-informed propagandist with a flair for publicity whose broadsides, against Arab governments are littered with error, half-truth and exaggeration.

To his supporters, the Palestinian-American is one of the few Arab writers with the courage to tell unpleasant truths about Middle East politics and what he sees as Western dominance born of defense and energy interests.

But Arab readers, who form his biggest potential audience, are unlikely to be able to judge for themselves because the bulk of his bluntly written books are barred in the region by a patchwork of official and informal censorship apparently aimed at sparing official embarrassment.

"What happens to writers like myself is that they are either barred or slandered," said the London-based writer and former businessman, who adds that he is denied visas to visit much of the region because of his work.

"Arab publishers are afraid to publish books like these because

they would be banned in Arab countries and they would not be able to do business there." Aburish's poison-tipped polemic, has jolted the Arab diaspora in Europe and North America for more than a decade by attacking corruption and denouncing what he calls despotism and injustice.

His latest book, *A Brutal Friendship: The West and the Arab Elite*, is an account of the involvement of Western intelligence agencies and commercial concerns in the major events of the region's modern history.

"Among a small circle of Arab writers and journalists who dare to speak the unspeakable, Aburish is fast becoming an icon," wrote the Sunday newspaper, the *Observer*. "To some Arab states, he has proved an author more traumatic than Salman Rushdie." The Indian-born, British author of *The Satanic Verses* earned a death edict from the late Iranian spiritual leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini.

Aburish's new book pursues the Arab nationalist argument that Western and Arab leaders struck a

DEMOCRATIC FRONTIERS

corrupt alliance rooted in Cold War ambition and multibillion-dollar oil and defense contracts. In the process, according to this view, they denied ordinary Arabs the chance to develop democracy. The result is a region mired in authoritarian rule and buffeted by an Islamic militancy that ironically now threatens Western interests, Aburish says.

While the argument is not new, the book attempts to give it fresh life by unveiling the seamy side of the "alliance," probing decades of the violence, skulduggery and betrayal which he says have shaped the region.

Unafraid to name names, he unveils what could pass for a cast of characters from a Hollywood thriller — rapacious oilmen, venal tribal leaders, sadistic gunmen, alcoholic spies and sleazy public-relations experts — and shows them weaving a self-defeating web of bribery and blackmail. Aburish met several of these peo-

ple as a young reporter in Lebanon and through his father, a longtime Beirut correspondent for *Time* magazine. Few Arab rulers past or present are spared Aburish's barbs.

"Everyone has talked about these stories in bits and pieces, but no one has collated and published them in a coherent form before," Aburish said.

The book won headlines with its detailed account of alleged US support for a 1963 Iraqi coup that brought the Ba'ath Party to office and started Iraqi President Saddam Hussein on his path to power.

Aburish says 5,000 people, of whom he has collected the names of 600, were killed by Ba'ath death squads after the coup, and death lists were compiled with Western and Egyptian help.

"We came to power on a CIA train," he quotes Ali Salih Sa'adi, the Ba'ath's first interior minister, as telling *Al-Quds al-Arabi* newspaper.

He also details Western involvement in coups and attempted coups in Syria and Jordan, and turmoil in Lebanon and Palestine. Aburish quotes James

Critchfield, the Central Intelligence Agency's head of Middle East operations in the 1950s, as lamenting the agency's performance in that decade as the "cowboy era."

The book, soon to be published in the US, is unlikely to appear in Arabic or be sold in the Middle East in English because of censorship, Aburish said.

"Censorship in the region is a fact. Hundreds of books are banned every year," says Abdel-Bari Atwan, editor of *Al-Quds al-Arabi*, an independent-minded daily for which Aburish sometimes writes.

"If you are talking about the wealth of a ruler, you are exceeding red lines. If you talk about how those countries were established, it's a taboo.... That is why we have to publish in London."

Aburish's book won mostly warm reviews in London from reporters who have covered the region. Academics and diplomats familiar with the Middle East were more skeptical, saying that while Aburish's broad argument had merit, much of his research appeared shallow. (Reuters)

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Good faith maintained

The dilemma facing IDF Judge Advocate-General Uri Shoham over whether to honor the agreement signed with rioting soldiers at Military Prison No. 6 was not an easy one. Its solution demanded weighing against each other a number of highly important values which no enlightened society can ignore: the moral imperative of honoring agreements, the importance of military and prison discipline, and the need to protect human life. In such situations there can be no ideal solution. Shoham's difficult and controversial decision - to indict the rioting soldiers despite the promise given to them that they would not be tried for their actions - was the correct one.

On the face of it, the decision seems to strike at one of the most important social values, that of upholding commitments and signed agreements. The 13 rioting soldiers, all of whom were long-term inmates at the prison, held guards hostage for 24 hours on August 8 and 9, threatening their lives with axes and crude petrol bombs.

They agreed to end their stand-off with military authorities and to return quietly to their cells only after the IDF signed an agreement with them promising them that they would not be tried for their actions nor transferred to civilian prisons. The rioters upheld their end of the bargain and all hostages were released unharmed, but within a day OC Manpower Branch Maj.-Gen. Gideon Sbeffer was already indicating that the IDF would not honor the agreement.

Those arguing that the IDF should keep its word say that it badly undermines the IDF's integrity, and could potentially lead soldiers to mistrust their commanders. They also say this decision sets a precedent that will not be forgotten in future instances in which the IDF may be called upon to negotiate with rioters or hostage-takers. Due to the IDF's record of lack of "good faith," the argument goes, future rioters may not even be willing to negotiate an end to their actions.

Yisrael Ba'alya - perhaps because many of the rioting soldiers are recent immigrants from the former Soviet Union - has been particularly harsh in its condemnation of Shoham's decision, warning of the consequences of undermining the integrity of the authorities in general and the IDF in particular. Knesset whip Roman Bronfman has called for an independent commission of inquiry

and may join the soldiers in appealing the decision to the High Court of Justice.

The arguments in favor of upholding the agreement, however, seem to be taking the defeatist view that more prison riots, especially violent ones, are inevitable. The correct approach should be one which seeks to avoid a repetition of last month's events. There are a number of steps which can and should be taken in order to prevent such occurrences. These include reviewing security provisions in the prisons and providing military prison guards, most of them young soldiers who are not professionals, with the necessary training.

Prison conditions, which were mentioned as one of the complaints of the rioting soldiers but were apparently not the trigger of the riots, can also be reviewed - they should not be luxurious, but basic standards of livability must be maintained and unprovoked beatings of inmates by guards should be severely dealt with.

Most important, however, is to deter would-be rioters with the threat of certain punishment. Upholding the agreement signed with the rioting inmates would be sending precisely the opposite message: It would be telling the prison population, both military and civilian, that in rioting and threatening human life it can win concessions from the authorities. Such a message can only encourage others to take similar actions.

Legally, agreements which are signed under duress, extortion and threats need not be binding. The principle of upholding agreements in good faith holds only when both sides have willingly entered the agreement. This is clearly a case of an agreement arrived at under duress, given that the lives of the guards being held hostage were threatened by the rioters.

It should not be forgotten that the rioting inmates were not reserve soldiers being held on minor offenses, but criminals who had committed serious crimes and had been sentenced to long terms of imprisonment. Indeed, in light of their crimes and sentences, they were scheduled to be transferred to civilian prisons, and it was this which led to the riot in the first place - an indication that conditions in the military prisons are not as bad as they were initially portrayed by the rioters. Their transfer to civilian penal institutions may be worthy of review, but under no circumstances should the rioters be rewarded for their violent actions and threats.

Marking 100 years of Zionism



Will a PLO state lead to peace - or war?

MORTON A. KLEIN

Is the creation of a PLO state in Judea, Samaria and Gaza the key to Arab-Israeli peace, as the Arabs and their supporters claim? Or would such a state endanger Israel, lead to more terrorism, and increase the likelihood of war, as Israel has warned?

In the months to come, Israeli and Arab negotiators will be discussing implementation of the remaining stages of the Oslo accords, especially the question of how much of Judea, Samaria and Gaza will be surrendered to PLO control. The accords do not specify what percentage of the territories are to be surrendered. The PLO is demanding a 100 percent Israeli withdrawal, to be followed by the creation of an independent "State of Palestine."

Although there are a variety of opinions among Israelis as to how much of the territories Israel should retain, there is a national consensus that certain areas must remain in Israel's hands. To begin with, areas where Israelis live must stay in Israeli control, if they are to have sufficient protection against Arab terrorism: the constant drive-by shootings, stabbings, and fire-bomb attacks against Israeli residents of the territories could become worse if Israeli-populated areas were under PLO control.

Second, Jewish holy sites must also remain in Israel's hands, in order to ensure that Jews will have full access to them; Israelis remember all too well how they were barred from Hebron and the Old City of Jerusalem when Jordan occupied those areas between 1948-1967.

Third, most Israelis believe that Israel must retain the strategic mountain ranges in Judea and Samaria. Without these protective mountainous areas, Israel would be reduced to a width of just nine miles in the middle of the country. US Lieut.-Gen. Thomas Kelly, director of operations for the Joint Chiefs of Staff during the Gulf War, has pointed out that Israel would be virtually indefensible without those mountainous areas: "I look out from those heights and look onto the West Bank and say to myself, 'If I'm the chief of staff of the Israel Defense Forces, I cannot defend this land without that terrain.' They only have to go the high ground running north and south in the middle of the country in order to dominate the country. So I don't know about politics, but if you want me to defend this country, and you want me to defend Jerusalem, I've got to hold that high ground."

Shortly after the 1967 war, US defense secretary Robert McNamara asked the Joint Chiefs of Staff to analyze which of the administered territories Israel needed to keep for its security. Regarding Judea and Samaria, the Joint Chiefs concluded: "Control of the prominent high ground running north-south through the middle of West Jordan [the 'West Bank']... and then southeast to a junction with the Dead Sea... would provide Israel with a militarily defensible border."

ASSUMING that Israel retains Israeli-populated areas, holy sites and strategic points, would it be safe to permit the creation of a PLO state in the other areas of Judea, Samaria and Gaza? One danger of a PLO state is that it could establish a full-fledged army which would be stationed along border areas directly adjacent to the cities containing 70 percent of Israel's population (including Tel Aviv, Jerusalem and Haifa.) As Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu pointed out

on June 9, "The creation of a Palestinian state in the area of the Palestinian Authority will inevitably lead to a situation whereby an Arab army will pose a threat to the existence of the State of Israel."

In addition to the Russians, the PLO would likely receive weapons from numerous other sources, including Iran, Iraq, Syria and North Korea. The same kind of Iranian "volunteers" who have been sent to aid the Hizbullah terrorists in southern Lebanon would not doubt be dispatched to "Palestine." The PLO seems to already be preparing to create an army: the Palestinian Legislative Council's new plan to draft young men into a "national service" system has been described by Israeli government spokesmen as camouflage for a military draft.

Some advocates of PLO statehood claim that the PLO would agree to keep its state demilitarized. But PLO spokesmen have repeatedly said that they will not agree to demilitarization. Even if the PLO initially agreed to demilitarization, how could Israel prevent it from later violating such an agreement? Remember: Germany was demilitarized after World War I, but when Hitler began building up the

German army during the 1930s, the Allies took no action, because they were not prepared to go to war over Hitler's infractions. Iraq was supposed to be demilitarized after the Gulf War, yet it has been steadily rebuilding its military, and there are no signs that the West is ready to go to war to prevent it.

A PLO state would have its own airports and seaports, as well as borders with Egypt and Jordan, making it relatively easy to import heavy weapons. (Recent media reports have revealed that the PLO is already bringing in anti-aircraft missiles. Imagine how much worse it could be if they have sovereignty.) Even if Israel managed to detect the arrival of such weapons, it might hesitate to take military action because of the likelihood of international criticism and even United Nations sanctions.

The PLO has already been expanding its police force into a de facto army. During the nearly four years since the Oslo accords were signed, the PLO has gradually increased its police force from the permissible maximum of 24,000 to 40,000 - or more, according to some analysts. Their arsenal includes anti-aircraft missiles and anti-tank weapons, according to *Time* magazine and Israeli media reports. Factories have been established in Gaza to manufacture weapons forbidden by Oslo. Underground bunkers have been set up in the territories for use by PLO commanders. In short, Arafat already has the nucleus of an army. Statehood would give him the freedom to establish a full-fledged military force.

Judging by how Yasser Arafat has treated Hamas during the past 4 years, it seems likely that Hamas would play a major role in shaping the policies of a PLO state. Arafat's public hugging and kissing of Hamas leader Abdul Aziz Rantisi on August 20 was just the latest in a long series of pro-Hamas actions by the PLO chairman. Arafat has consistently treated Hamas as an ally, not an enemy. He has repeatedly demanded that Israel release the imprisoned Hamas leader, Sheikh Ahmed Yassin, whom he calls "my brother." Arafat has praised Hamas bomb-maker Ythye Ayyash (who killed at least 60 Israelis) as a "martyr" and a "hero," and he named a public square in Jericho after Ayyash.

As recently as June 10, Arafat asserted that "Hamas, even its military wing, is a patriotic movement." Other senior PLO officials have likewise praised Hamas. PLO "Foreign Minister" Farouk Kaddoumi called Hamas "part of the national movement." PA Minister Hanan Ashrawi blasted Israel for trying "to decide or define who is our enemy. Hamas is not the enemy, it is part of the political fabric." PA Justice Minister Freih Abu Medein said that "The PLO and the [Hamas] opposition complement each other..." PA Minister Nabil Sha'ath bluntly declared: "We have a brotherly relationship with Hamas."

It seems clear that a PLO state may well end up being a PLO-Hamas state, which would make it even more of a danger to Israel. A PLO state would also endanger Israel's water sources. A significant portion of Israel's water originates in Judea and Samaria. If the PLO has sovereignty, it could shut off the flow of that water. There would also be the danger of Palestinian Arab terrorists sabotaging the Israeli water supply. Another danger of a PLO state is that it could attract a huge influx of Palestinian Arab "refugees" from around the Middle East. Massive overcrowding will tax the state's economy and natural resources beyond its capabilities.

Arafat would no doubt seek to divert the masses' attention by blaming their problems on the Israelis. The Jewish state would be used as a scapegoat just as Jews have been used as scapegoats by other hostile dictators in the past. Arafat could exploit the situation to whip up nationalist sentiment and launch an all-out war, which could involve other Arab regimes such as Syria or Iraq, to "liberate the rest of Palestine."

Equally troubling is the likelihood that the creation of a PLO state would lead to an increase in terrorist attacks. The PLO would share a long border with Israel, flanking the areas that contain 70 percent of Israel's population - plenty of tempting targets for attacks. At some point, Israel would be forced to cross into PLO territory, in pursuit of terrorists or to strike at terrorist bases. Such a forced incursion into the new PLO state could possibly trigger international consideration of sanctions against the Jewish state. It could also prompt Arab regimes to unite against the incursion and, together with the PLO, launch an all-out war against Israel.

Some of those Arab regimes possess chemical and biological weapons. Israel could suffer thousands, or even tens of thousands, of casualties. Such would be the price of allowing the creation of a PLO state.

The writer is National President of the Zionist Organization of America.

Moral equivalence

LARRY DERFNER

A nice, safe consensus has taken shape in Israel over the battle between the Orthodox and the Reform (local shorthand for Reform, Conservative and/or miscellaneous Judaism): Both sides are equally guilty.

The American Jewish establishment has, as they say, come on board. The USA has quietly erased the term "Jewish pluralism" from its vocabulary - too, um, "controversial" - and now speaks only of "Jewish unity."

Over the weekend a Reform nursery school in Mevaseret Zion was set on fire. Reform Jews in town had already been warned by some of their Shas-nimble neighbors that they would indeed be "burned out." There may be a connection here.

But I don't think one reason will shake the consensus. Orthodox and haredi rabbis and government ministers have started doing their "shock and dismay" number - they're well-practiced at it - and so, even as the nursery school stands blackened from fire, the Jewish Middle can maintain its even-handed position on Israel's religious dispute.

Our moderates are well-practiced at this particular number. They did it after the Rabin murder. They threw their bulk behind the consensus, by now polished and permanent, that the Right and Left were equally guilty of incitement. Peace Now was no less culpable than Zo Artzenu.

So it goes with the war between the Jews. It's shocking, terrible, inappropriate for haredim to throw rocks at Reform Jews praying at the Western Wall. All these telephoned death threats against the Reform Jews from yeshiva students in Jerusalem - wrong, wrong. Comparing the Reform to Hamas, blanning them for the Holocaust - no. Unacceptable.

But on the other hand, The Reform certainly are provocative, aren't they? Do their men and

If it didn't stop for a murdered prime minister, why should it stop for a little nursery school?

women have to pray together at the Western Wall, in full view of the Orthodox? Right or wrong, they're offending people, and there's no need for that.

And why do they have to run to the Supreme Court all the time? Right or wrong, the Orthodox tend to have a problem with the Supreme Court, and this will only cause more divisiveness.

We all have to understand that Israel is - excuse the expression - a conservative society. It has difficulty with the new, it tends to become suspicious, hostile, and some of the more tradition-minded Israelis may lose self-control. Their sensitivities must be respected, and the Reform, we're afraid, haven't done that. But, again, the Orthodox have also behaved in an unfortunate manner towards the Reform. So both sides have to mend their ways - for the sake of Jewish unity.

THERE'S a term for this approach. It's called "moral equivalence." The Jewish Middle loves to berate the gentiles about moral equivalence whenever it's suggested that Israel bears a good share of the guilt in its war with the Palestinians.

Israel is the victim and the Palestinians are the victimizers, and don't confuse the two, the argument goes. But when it comes to the Jewish War, our middling Jews can't seem to distinguish between victim and victimizer.

The distinction seems clear enough. The Orthodox say Reform Judaism isn't Judaism, while the Reform do not and never would make that claim against Orthodoxy.

The Orthodox want to stop Reform marriages, divorces, conversions and circumcisions, while the Reform have no problem with Orthodox ones.

Finally, 100% of the death threats and violence in the conflict is carried out by Orthodox Jews against Reform Jews. It's purely a one-sided affair.

So why isn't there a Jewish consensus that Reform Jews are a persecuted religious minority in Israel, subject to continual threats and violence, and that Orthodox Jewry is their persecutor?

Because just like after the Rabin assassination, the good Jewish Middle is afraid to confront the haredim. They were afraid then to face the political wrath of the Right, and they are afraid now to face the religious wrath of the Orthodox. The Left was harmless then, and the Reform are harmless now, so why not play it safe? Moral equivalence. Jewish cowardice. If it didn't stop for a murdered prime minister, why should it stop for a little nursery school?

The writer is a journalist in Modi'in.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

CAR THIEVES

Sir, - On August 27, you reported that over 21,400 vehicles were stolen in this country in the first half of this year. This is a scandal as we know exactly where these vehicles end up. When the PLO official drove up to the Knesset in a stolen limousine, did the government request its return? A large proportion of the vehicles on the roads controlled by PLO were stolen from Israel, sometimes with the help of criminals. The government would be justified in deducting their value from payments made to the PLO.

The PA feeds the international media with stories calculated to put Israel in a negative light-usually playing loosely with the facts. I have seen or heard nothing in the international media concerning the many years of car stealing which is certainly a violation of Oslo. As usual Israeli government PR uses every opportunity to miss an opportunity.

WILLIAM DIMON, D.M.D. Tel-Aviv.

SATISFIED CUSTOMER

Sir, - After having read the various airline horror stories in your column over the last weeks, I feel compelled to add one more story, but with a "happy ending."

Over the last 25 years, I have flown Tower (once was enough), El Al and TWA. I have made my choices based on price as well as convenience. I have been satisfied with both airlines, as far as service and courtesy to passengers, but have found that if one is "bumped" from a flight, has lost or damaged baggage, or any other inconvenience due to missed connections, TWA has always done whatever possible to rectify the situation, with just compensation, (e.g. free ticket, repaired or replaced luggage, \$50 discount coupons for justified inconvenience).

Because of the steep competition among airlines, the companies would do well to learn from TWA's attitude that if the customer is satisfied, he will return.

Petah Tikva. SANDY ASHRI

ONLY ONE SIDE

Sir, - Haim Shapiro's article on the Elbiyah conversion dispute (August 25) presents only one side of what is clearly a controversial issue. While Elbiyah's wife and the chairman of the Israel Council of Progressive Rabbis are quoted at length, there is no sign of any attempt to contact the Kiryat Tivon rabbinat and get their side of the story.

Furthermore, ICPR chairman Michael Boyden uses the case to draw far-reaching conclusions about the right role for the official rabbinat in Israeli society. This surely warrants seeking the comment of a rabbinat spokesperson.

When citizens complain of mistreatment by government authorities, the *Post* is usually scrupulous about getting the viewpoint of the accused office or ministry. Rabbis and religious councils are as entitled as all others to the protection of this rule of journalistic practice.

Jerusalem. DAVID HOFFMAN

LEAVE LEBANON NOW

general disregard of the number of soldiers who have died in Lebanon in the past 12 years that four mothers, from northern settlements, with sons serving there, first demonstrated.

They wished to focus attention on our presence in the security zone and to have the government put Lebanon back on the national agenda. They asked for alternatives to the continuing loss of life and to the unconscionable price we are paying for the questionable security we are receiving. For an MK to blithely proclaim that we are "winning" in Lebanon because we have lost only six Israelis is to show how uninformed - or callous

Nof Yam. LINDA BEN-ZVI

FROM OUR ARCHIVES

30 years ago: On September 4, 1947, *The Palestine Post* reported that the Zionist General Council meeting in Zurich had adopted a resolution describing the UN Special Committee on Palestine report as "an earnest effort to bring the Palestine problem to a just conclusion," but demanded that Jerusalem should be a part of the Jewish State and that Galilee should not be divided.

Following the shooting in the center of Jerusalem on August 21, two British constables were each fined 14 days' pay and dismissed from the force.

Permission was given for special food parcels to be sent to Jews detained in Cyprus.

25 years ago: On September 4, 1972, *The Jerusalem Post* reported that Foreign Minister

Abba Eban "expressed regret" at Dr. Nahum Goldmann's suggestion that Israel should consider paying the Soviet Union's ransom payments. In Canberra the Soviet Embassy refused to accept \$4,660 which over 200 Australian Jews laid at their gate as a "symbolic payment of the ransom."

Alexander Zvielli

POSTSCRIPT

UNHOLY THOUGHTS from the Roman Catholic Church: Manila bishop Theodore Bacani, speaking of 'bridal fashions, complained

that brides have taken to showing more of what they've got. He was quoted in *USA Today*: "There are times [during a wed-

ding ceremony] when instead of saying 'the body of Christ' I am tempted to say, 'Christ, what a body!'" R. Klein

The writer is a journalist in Modi'in.

JACOB'S CHILDREN IN THE LAND OF THE MAHDI: Jews of the Sudan by Eli S. Malka. Syracuse, New York, Syracuse University Press. 262 pp. Price not stated.

By Yosef Yaakov

In the beginning, more than a century ago, there were eight Jewish families in Africa's largest country. They lived under Egyptian-Turkish rule and were free to practice their religion. They were trapped in the turbulence of the Mahdi's invasion and massacre of Gen. Gordon's garrison, and survived the fierce repression of his fanatically Islamic regime and its successor, the Khalifa, which had forcibly converted the few Jews and all the Coptic Christians in Sudan to Islam.

When the British-Egyptian land and naval forces under Gen. Kitchener finally stamped out the Mahdiyya era in 1898 (in a battle in which Winston Churchill and Orde Wingate's father took part) and restored Anglo-Egyptian rule, the tiny Jewish community was resurrected. Some members had married Moslem women and converted them to Judaism, circumcising their sons. The community grew gradually and lasted just 80 years, never exceeding a thousand souls.

The original eight families had lived as *anusim*, concealed Jews, during the 17-year Islamic caliphate. All but one were Sephardi families, originating in Middle Eastern countries from where they moved to Egypt and thence to Sudan. Their leader was Ben-Sion Coshti, of Turkish origin; under the Mahdiyya, his name had been Arabized to Bassoumi. The only Ashkenazi family was called Mandel, an apparent Arabization of Mandel. Strangely, it alone refused the offer of re-conversion to Judaism and chose to remain Moslem.

Author Eli Malka, now in his 80s, was born in Sudan to that country's first chief rabbi, Solomon (Shlomo) Malka, who was recruited by the Egyptian chief rabbi from Palestine to serve the reviving and growing Jewish community in Sudan. Malka was born in Morocco and taken by his parents to Tiberias,

A fleeting presence



Rabbi Solomon Malka (1878-1949), first chief rabbi of Sudan

where he continued his yeshiva studies and was ordained a rabbi.

This is both a lovingly chronicled history of the fleeting presence of an isolated, backwater, now-vanished Jewish community, and a richly recorded autobiography detailing the social, religious, economic and political background of those Jews. The community evolved into a surprisingly cosmopolitan entity, with a disproportionately large segment gaining prominence in various fields, and engaging in a fascinating variety of activities.

The Jews lived mainly in the two large, twin towns of Khartoum and Omdurman. The community was 90 percent Sephardi; the few Ashkenazim were integrated and many married Sephardim in Khartoum and Cairo. Despite their families' previous decades of residence in Egypt, the various origins of the Jewish community were recalled in the names attached to the different sub-sections, such as Moghrabi (from Morocco and Tunisia), Spaniol (Salonica, Rhodes and Corfu, Izmir and Istanbul); the

French-speakers (France, Italy and Algeria); Baghdad (from Iraq); Egyptians; Halabi (Aleppo in Syria); and Eastern European "Iskiazim."

All spoke Arabic and many also wrote it, some being scholars of the language. Most were also fluent in English, the administration's second language, and that used in higher education and international commerce in Sudan. Some also spoke French, the language of the elite in Egypt. Author Malka writes they "all lived together... in harmony and love."

The Jews opened shops in the main market of Khartoum, selling cotton and silk piece goods, textiles and haberdashery. An Aleppo family became textile merchants. The author's father, the first community rabbi, was also its ritual slaughterer, teacher of religion and leader. He supplemented his meager salary by running a sesame-oil mill and a plant that made floor tiles, as well as a factory producing macaroni.

He would regularly receive Father Boulos (Paul) of the Omdurman Protestant Church, in his office, where they studied the Old Testament and the Prophets in Arabic. Boulos had been converted to Christianity from Islam by missionaries. Other Christian priests and Jewish students went to the rabbi regularly for lessons.

Jewish marriages needed the prior permission of the Egyptian rabbi; Malka's father, after Rabbi Malka died, the community went through two young rabbis who served brief terms and finally got Rabbi Massoud el-Baz. This rabbi eventually went to Switzerland, where Sudan-born tycoon Nessim Gaon built an elegant synagogue in Geneva and engaged the rabbi (who ultimately retired in Israel).

Jews in Sudan reached prominence in business and the professions. From Cairo came Maurice Goldenberg, the first optician in Sudan; I. Segal came from Palestine to become a senior official of the Sudanese Government Passport Office, a delicate position for a Jew and Zionist in an Arab Moslem country; J. Wolf arrived from Britain, the only immigrant from that country, to be inspector of finance for the government.

Dr. Solomon Bassoumi, Ben-Sion's son, became the chief surgeon

of the government hospital in Khartoum and professor of medicine in the university. The author's brother, Edmond, was one of the most prominent lawyers in Sudan and wrote the standard Arabic legal reference book on English common law. On migrating to the US, he was for a time deputy attorney-general of New Jersey.

Other prominent Jews, including Leon Tamman and his brothers, started and developed the largest crocodile and snakeskin, hunting, tanning and exporting companies in the Sudan, as well as the first large pharmaceutical factory there, later moving to Switzerland.

Before World War II, German Jewish refugees came to Sudan, where at first they were required to report to the Khartoum Police daily. Nahum Sokolov, then president of the World Zionist Organization, visited the community in 1934. Later visitors included the chief Ashkenazi rabbi of the Yishuv, Rabbi Isaac Halevi Herzog, and Rabbi Israel Brodie (later chief rabbi of the British Commonwealth) in his capacity as Jewish chaplain at the Khartoum British garrison during the war. During his lifetime, the chief rabbi represented the community before the government and other official bodies and was invited to all ceremonies and palace garden parties.

A gripping historic event was the passage of thousands of Ethiopian Jews who had fled to Sudan in the mid-1980s on their way to Israel with the help of the Reagan administration in the US, and airlifted secretly from camps outside the Sudanese town of Kassala. This was during the regime of Gen. Ja'far Numeiri, whose successors sentenced him to death in absentia after he was overthrown for permitting this.

The author himself, a successful businessman, retired to the US. He writes of the virtual exodus of all Sudan's Jews in stages through the War of Independence, the 1956 Suez campaign and the 1967 war, when attacks by the press and public were daily events and clearly indicated to the Jews that their Sudanese exile was at an end. By 1970, several companies accused of collaborating with "the Zionists" were closed down and the last Jews left the country.

Trying to do the right thing

VAQUITA AND OTHER STORIES by Edith Pearlman. University of Pittsburgh Press. 183 pp. \$22.50.

By Leslie Cohen

Vaquita and Other Stories is the 16th winner of the Druce Heitz Literature Prize worth \$10,000. Author Edith Pearlman has traveled extensively in Israel and one of the stories - "Stranger in the House," which originally appeared in *Tikkun* magazine - was written during a stay at Jerusalem's Mishkenot Sha'ananim. Several other stories touch obliquely on Israeli themes.

"Vaquita," for example, is about a Holocaust survivor living in South America, hoping to escape her current peril by coming to Israel. Like "Vaquita," many of the stories are set in a pointedly turbulent and politically corrupt South America, although they do not make any overtly political point. While Pearlman praises the short story for being "narrative at its most confiding," she offers too few intimacies of the kind revealed in "Vaquita." This is a story built on inconsistencies that surprise and delight. The heroine's life has been mapped out across political absurdities, stretching from Nazism to South American revolutions. Despite many obstacles, Vaquita is a woman who has achieved success in every measurable sense of the word. Yet, at retirement age, she remains the survivor that she was as a child. In a jungle clearing where an Indian woman is nursing her baby, Vaquita recognizes another survivor and gives the young mother her diamond pin. Despite the level of sophistication Vaquita has attained and her pressing danger, her humanity is unimpaired. For me, her story personifies heroism.

Pearlman says that her stories are about "people in peculiar circumstances aching to Do The Right Thing." Those peculiar circumstances range from the banal to the bizarre. "Donna's Heart," set in a

suburb of Boston, explores the vicissitudes of losing and finding an expensive gift, while "Inbound" takes us through the even greater emotional turmoil of losing and finding a child in the streets of New York City.

"Stranger in the House" is about romantic love and jealousy - recurrent themes that only an unusual talent could approach with freshness. A few stories deal with Jewish issues - notably, "To Reach This Season," which describes one man's failure to find a mitzvah on Yom Kippur.

Pearlman's strength is the creation of mundane and plausible characters who nevertheless live through and participate in extremely unusual situations. And faretched as these circumstances may be, the stories are rendered poignant by our awareness that they are possible. Wedged between several unexceptional stories is a 20th-century fairy tale called "The Cook," which I found as gruesome and as memorable as Grimm. Set in a South American dictatorship, the story is about a dwarf who fasts up starving, homeless children to be used for a purpose only recently invented. The compromised heroine (presumably herself a victim of the dictator) pretends that she doesn't know the destination of the children entrusted to her care. She reads them fairy tales, teaches them vocabulary, and encourages them to perform stunts. Cook is a jarring departure from the character trying To Do The Right Thing. The story places the age-old issue of moral dilemma in a bizarre but credible setting.

Stylistically, Pearlman's prose is pleasant, not passionate; entertaining, not exhilarating. My enthusiasm was on an intellectual level. Pearlman uses settings that are distinctly late-20th-century to display the struggle of compromised humanity. Perhaps the award was given for Pearlman's underlying message: that humankind may be able to survive the evil things that people do. This is the undercurrent that draws the reader into the stories and the afterthought I had when I put the book down.

The liberal threat?

FAITH OR FEAR by Elliott Abrams. New York, Free Press. 237 pp. \$25.

By Morton I. Teicher

Thoughtful Jews continue to express concern about what Alan Dershowitz called *The Vanishing American Jew* (New York: Little, Brown & Co., 1997) and what Elliott Abrams calls the "demographic crisis." Both address the same issue: the American Jewish community is being eroded and corroded by intermarriage and assimilation. Dershowitz tackled the problem from the left and now Abrams enters the fray from the right.

Elliott Abrams is a neo-conservative who was assistant secretary of state under president Reagan with responsibility for human rights and Latin American affairs. He is now president of the Ethics and Public Policy Center in Washington.

As Dershowitz did in his book, Abrams begins by defining the problem confronting American Jews. They are shrinking in numbers - they are "less and less Jewish, more and more assimilated." They have a "disaster in the making." Abrams secularizes the "disaster" to the secularization of American Jewry. He also claims that the embrace of political liberalism by Jews has accelerated the process of numerical decline.

According to Abrams, liberal philosophy has caused Jews to fight for separation of church and state - a battle which Abrams sees as inimical to Jewish interests.

He buttresses his opposition to church-state separation by describing the positive changes in the Christian view of Judaism. Not only mainstream Catholics and Protestants but the Christian right as well should no longer be seen as the antisemitic enemy. Opposition to the Christian right by Jews, says Abrams, is political, not religious. They are conservative while Jews are liberal, but both groups have much in common. While this discussion is interesting, it is almost paranoiacal to the main issue of how to

cope with the central problem of an evaporating American Jewish community.

Abrams questions the value of the activities that have developed in response to American Jewry's preoccupation with "continuity." He also points out that American Jews will not survive by identification with Israel or by fixation on the Holocaust. Unlike Dershowitz, who argued for high quality Jewish education as the remedy, Abrams asserts that only Judaism can save the Jews. He makes out a strong case for a return to religio and religious observance.

This is a well written, logically put together polemic, but it ignores the strength of Jewish life

in spheres other than religion. Books of Jewish interest pour forth in increasing numbers. Jewish museums are flourishing. The number of kosher restaurants is growing. Jewish theater is enjoying a revival. Jewish magazines and newspapers have a wide readership. Yiddish refuses to die. Jewish studies programs in major universities continue to attract students and support.

The American Jewish community will undoubtedly grow smaller in number but quantity is not the sole measure of strength. While some Jews may heed Abrams' call for a return to religion, most will not - but this need not inevitably lead to gloom and doom.

BOOK BYTES

A year and half ago, the editor of *Elle* magazine in Paris, Jean-Dominique Bauby, 44, suffered a stroke. He was in a coma for three weeks. When he awoke, he found that his mental capacities were undiminished, but he could not speak or move anything except his left eyelid.

Just prior to his stroke, Bauby had signed a contract to write a book. By blinking to indicate letters of the alphabet, he wrote his book with an editor at his bedside taking down the words as they emerged. Bauby took around 200,000 blinks to write *Le Scaphandre et le Papillon* ("The Diving Bell and the Butterfly"), his record of "a mind in a jar."

Two days after the book was published last March, Bauby died. More than 200,000 copies have been sold in France, and Knopf has bought the US rights for the English version with a planned 75,000-copy first printing.

THERE IS a battle raging for James Joyce's *Ulysses*. The academics are squabbling over which manuscript constitutes the definitive edition.

Sections of *Ulysses*, taken from Joyce's handwritten notebooks, first appeared in literary magazines. The 1922 edition, published by the Paris bookshop Shakespeare & Co., was set by people whose first language was not English. Moreover, Joyce's proofreading was hampered by poor eyesight, and he himself described the final result as "appalling."

In 1975 Faber published the so-called "Rosenbach manuscript," which was the original ms. sold to an American collector. But scholars later discovered that there were differences between the handwritten version and the typescript. In 1986 Penguin came out with Hans Gabler's "Corrected

edition." In June, a new scholarly debate erupted with the publication of "A Reader's Edition" (Picador) edited by Danis Rose. Rose has contributed the commas to the text - in other words, he's made copy editing decisions. His arch rival, the American scholar John Kidd, has attacked Rose's work. Kidd is working on his own version, to be published by Norton.

Q IS BLACK, and enigmatic. He wears a 1940s-style leather pilot's cap (with the ear flaps) and slit wooden glasses. The actor-turned-author wrote his first novel *Deadbeat* (Sceptre) on a computer at his local London job center (employment service agency). After a succession of agents and publishers turned down his ms., Q arranged a loan to self-publish, using his own design and graphics.

Q then set about promoting and selling his product, a "young and contemporary" tale of the interracial club scene. He painted his Jeep with the *Deadbeat* logo and his home telephone number. After four years on the road, Q and his book have finally escaped from the underground to mainstream publishing. The marketing campaign includes distributing 20,000 bumper stickers around Britain, and Sceptre is aiming for over 100,000 sales.

THE NEW chess book *Kasparov v Deep Blue* (Batsford) wraps up the computer versus man upset of the century, which Gary Kasparov labeled "a very important and frightening milestone in the history of mankind." The book consists of analyses of the games by grandmaster Daniel King, a history of chess-playing computers and an interview with Kasparov. The winner was unavailable for comment.

David Brunner

HARDCOVER Fiction

1. *Cold Mountain* by Charles Frazier. (Atlantic Monthly \$24.) A wounded Confederate soldier journeys home toward the end of the Civil War to meet an old love.
2. *Unnatural Exposure* by Patricia Cornwell. (Putnam \$25.95.) Dr. Kay Scarpetta contends with a killer who uses a smallpox-like virus and cyberspace tricks.
3. *Special Delivery* by Danielle Steel. (Delacorte \$18.95.) Romance comes to a mature couple.
4. *Plum Island* by Nelson DeMille. (Warner \$25.) A detective probes the murder of a Long Island couple who may have been involved in germ warfare research.
5. *The God of Small Things* by Arundhati Roy. (Random House \$23.) Death and secrets haunt a once-prosperous merchant family in contemporary India.
6. *The Notebook* by Nicholas Sparks. (Warner \$16.95.) A World War II veteran meets an old flame who is about to be married.
7. *If This World Were Mine* by E. Lynn Harris. (Doubleday \$23.95.) The seemingly close bonds of four old classmates are strained when a stranger enters their lives.
8. *The Partner* by John Grisham. (Doubleday \$26.95.) The search for \$80 million stolen by a lawyer, believed dead, who is in hiding.
9. *Up Island* by Anne Rivers Siddons. (HarperCollins \$24.) An Atlanta woman, after a bad marriage and her mother's death, seeks a new life.
10. *London* by Edward Rutherfurd. (Crown \$25.95.) Two thousand years of life in Britain's capital as seen by six families.

HARDCOVER Non-fiction

1. *Angela's Ashes* by Frank McCourt. (Scribner \$24.) An Irish-American recalls his childhood amid the miseries of Limerick.
2. *The Man Who Listens to Horses* by Monty Roberts. (Random House \$23.) The memoirs of a professional horse trainer.
3. *The Perfect Storm* by Sebastian Junger. (Norton \$23.95.) An account of the nor'easter of 1991, focusing on fishermen from Gloucester, Mass.
4. *Into Thin Air* by Jon Krakauer. (Villard \$24.95.) An account of the ascent of Mount Everest in 1996, the deadliest season in history.
5. *Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil* by John Berendt. (Random House \$23.) The mysterious death of a young man in Savannah, Ga.
6. *The Bible Code* by Michael Drosnin. (Simon & Schuster \$25.) Hidden predictions in the Bible.
7. *Conversations with God: Book 1* by Neale Donald Walsch. (Putnam \$19.95.) The author addresses questions of life and love, good and evil, guilt and sin.
8. *Brain Droppings* by George Carlin. (Hyperion \$18.95.) Comments by the stand-up comedian.
9. *The Millionaire Next Door* by Thomas J. Stanley and William D. Danko. (Longstreet \$22.) An analysis of the lives of wealthy Americans discloses that they have seven characteristics in common.
10. *Conversations with God: Book 2* by Neale Donald Walsch. (Hampton Roads, \$19.95.) More discussions of moral questions.

PAPERBACK Fiction

1. *Cause of Death* by Patricia Cornwell. (Berkley \$7.50.) Dr. Kay Scarpetta investigates the mysterious death of a reporter.
2. *The Laws of Our Fathers* by Scott Turow. (Warner \$7.99.) The trial of a probation officer for his mother's murder recalls the turbulent 1960s.
3. *Executive Orders* by Tom Clancy. (Berkley \$7.50.) Vice President Jack Ryan has problems after the deaths of the president and most of the government.
4. *Dark Paradise* by Tami Hoag. (Bantam \$6.50.) A woman vacationing in Montana becomes the target of a stalker.
5. *The Regulators* by Richard Bachman. (Signet \$7.99.) Killings and other horrors disrupt a quiet suburban town in Ohio.
6. *Legend* by Jude Deveraux. (Pocket \$6.99.) A bride-to-be in modern-day Virginia suddenly finds herself in 19th-century Colorado.
7. *Above and Beyond* by Sandra Brown. (Mira \$6.99.) The troubled courtship of a widow by her late husband's best friend.
8. *The Third Twin* by Ken Follet. (Fawcett \$7.99.) A genetic researcher's work brings frightening experiences.
9. *Desperation* by Stephen King. (Signet \$7.99.) Visitors to a small mining town in Nevada encounter terrifying forces.
10. *Songs in Ordinary Time* by Mary McGarry Morris. (Fenguin \$13.95.) A divorced woman and her three children are menaced by a con man.

PAPERBACK Non-fiction

1. *The Color of Water* by James McBride. (Riverhead \$12.) A black writer and musician recalls his experiences growing up with his white mother in Brooklyn.
2. *Undaunted Courage* by Stephen E. Ambrose. (Touchstone/S&S \$16.) The story of how Thomas Jefferson sponsored Lewis and Clark.
3. *Into the Wild* by Jon Krakauer. (Anchor/Doubleday \$12.95.) A young man obsessed by the wilderness has a tragic end in Alaska.
4. *A Civil Action* by Jonathan Harr. (Vintage \$13.) Homeowners sue industrial polluters.
5. *Spontaneous Healing* by Andrew Weil. (Fawcett \$12.95.) How the body heals itself.
6. *The Heart of a Woman* by Maya Angelou. (Bantam \$12.) Volume 4 of the poet's autobiography.
7. *Revising Ophelia* by Mary Pipher. (Ballantine \$12.50.) The everyday dangers that beset teenage girls.
8. *Journey Into Darkness* by John Douglas and Mark Oshaker. (Drew/Pocket \$6.99.) A former FBI profiler describes the nature of vicious serial criminals.
9. *Girlfriends* by Carmen Rane. (Wildcat Canyon \$12.95.) Ties that bind women.
10. *Emotional Intelligence* by Daniel Goleman. (Bantam \$13.95.) Factors other than IQ that contribute to a successful and happy life.

PAPERBACK Miscellaneous

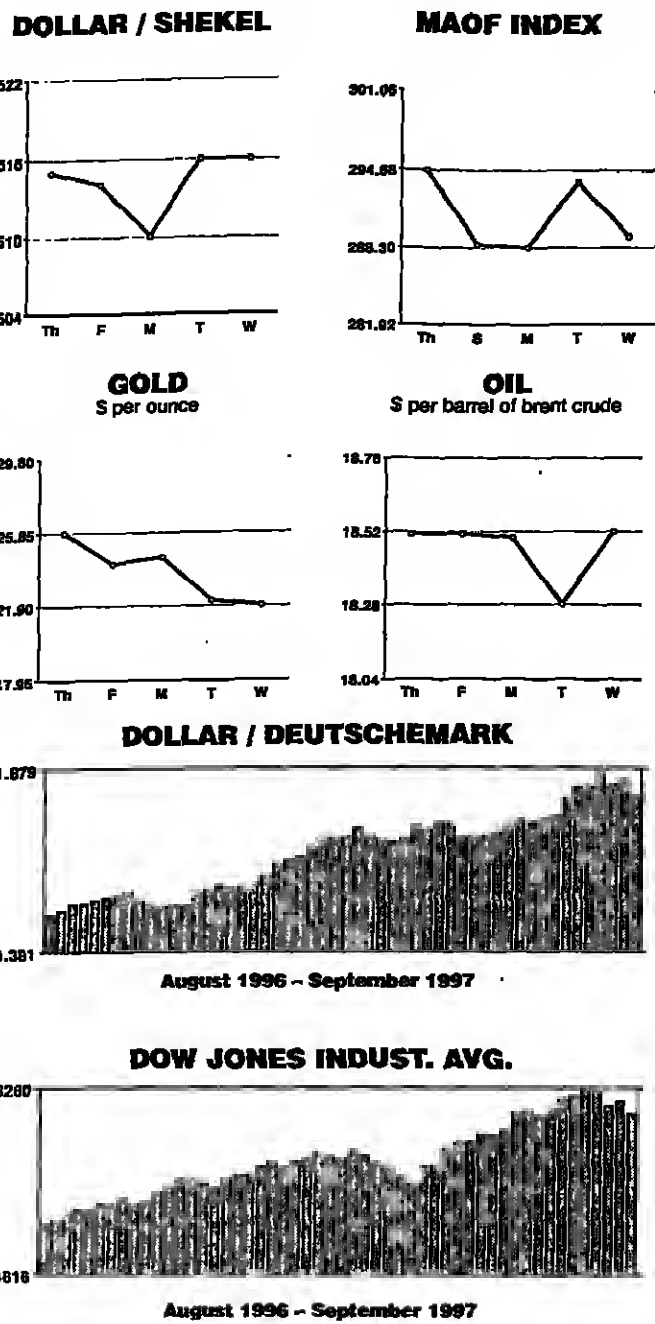
1. *Don't Sweat the Small Stuff ... and It's All Small Stuff* by Richard Carlson. (Hyperion \$8.95.) How to enjoy life much more and contribute to the world we live in.
2. *Chicken Soup for the Teenage Soul* compiled by Jack Canfield, Mark Victor Hansen and Kimberly Kirberger. (Health Communications \$12.95.) Inspiration.
3. *Dr. Atkins' New Diet Revolution* by Robert C. Atkins. (Avon \$6.50.) Ways to lose weight and achieve a healthy body.
4. *Chicken Soup for the Women's Soul* compiled by Jack Canfield, Mark Victor Hansen, Jennifer Read Hawthorn, and Marci Shimoff. (Health Communications \$12.95.) Inspiration.

HARDCOVER Miscellaneous

1. *Simple Abundance* by Sarah Ban Breathnach. (Warner \$17.95.) Advice for women seeking to improve the way they look at themselves.
2. *Miracle Cures* by Jean Carper. (HarperCollins \$25.) The "healing powers" of herbs, vitamins and other natural remedies.
3. *Men are from Mars, Women are from Venus* by John Gray. (HarperCollins \$25.) Improving communication and relationships.
4. *Kids Are Funny* (Warner \$10.) A collection of jokes submitted by children to *The Rosie O'Donnell Show*.

MARKETS

in brief



Kuwait offers stake in Burgan Bank

The Kuwait Investment Authority said yesterday it was offering 250 million shares of its stake in the Burgan Bank in a public subscription later this month.

Mishal Hammad, assistant senior investment manager at KIA, said the subscription will open September 14 and close September 29. The offered shares represent 34 percent of the bank's shares. AP

Oman, Kazakhstan sign economic pacts

Oman and Kazakhstan signed two economic agreements yesterday, Omani officials said. They said the deals aimed at avoiding double taxation and encouraging investments, especially in the field of oil and natural gas.

The signing came after Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbayev, who is in Oman as part of a Gulf tour, held talks with Omani officials there.

Nazarbayev has already visited Kuwait and Bahrain, where he signed similar economic agreements. AP

Anti-Trust Authority to limit Hapoalim tender winner

Bidders must submit sums today for largest bank sale

Globes News Service and Jerusalem Post Staff

The Keil-Fishman consortium yesterday received from Anti-Trust Commissioner Dr. David Tadmor a draft of the restrictions he would impose on the group should it acquire Bank Hapoalim, sources close to the group said.

A similar notice was forwarded on Tuesday to the Arison group, which is the other bidder in the tender for the sale of a controlling share in the bank.

The two groups are the only contenders in the tender after the Claridge group's withdrawal due to its purchase of a controlling share in Koor Industries.

The two contestants' bids are to be opened today by MI Holdings, the state company which oversees the privatization of the commercial banking industry.

The prospective restrictions relate mainly to various Bank Hapoalim holdings whose business is identical or similar to that of holdings of consortium members, chiefly the Dankner group and Ted Arison.

The restrictions which would be imposed on the Keil-Fishman group are substantially of the same nature.

Under the conditions stipulated by Tadmor, the bank, if acquired by the Keil-Fishman consortium, will not be able to directly involve in, or appoint directors to, companies whose activity overlaps with that of companies in which businessman Eliezer Fishman is a party at interest.

Fishman will reportedly not become a Bank Hapoalim director if his group wins the tender for the bank.

This morning, the final contract is scheduled to be signed

between the consortia and MI Holdings, and be attached to the envelope containing the bid which will be submitted at 5 p.m.

The bids will specify the number of shares each consortium seeks to acquire, within the 25%-69% range.

If there is a large difference between the bids, the committee is likely to decide on the purchaser as early as tonight.

MI Holdings says that the aim is to complete the process as quickly as possible, and out to drag it out over several days. However, it is believed that there will not be a large difference between the two bids, and therefore an initial price bargaining process will take place tomorrow.

Banking industry insiders believe the final decision will be made early next week.

The Economic Corporation and

Industrial Buildings, both controlled by Eliezer Fishman, are expected to raise some NIS 500 million on the basis of their June financial statements.

This sum is earmarked for repaying credit to Bank Hapoalim, as part of the preparations for acquiring the controlling interest, should the Keil-Fishman consortium win the tender.

Repayment of the credit is a part of the conditions imposed on the group by the supervisor of banks, on awarding his final draft permit for acquiring control of the bank.

Once completed, the sale of Bank Hapoalim will not only be a landmark in the denationalization of the banking industry, but also overshadow all previous privatization schemes in Israel, both in terms of size and in terms of economic effect.

Israel Chem. raises \$75m. from int'l group

By DAN GERSTENFELD

Israel Chemicals raised \$75 million this week from a bank syndication comprising nine financial institutions from Japan, the US and Europe. The syndicate was organized by Credit Suisse and Dresdner Bank.

The five-year loan will replace previous credits and carries an interest rate of 0.335 percent above the London interbank offered rate. The rate is 0.125% lower than the rate the company paid for a syndicated loan a year ago.

In a statement, the company said that "the success of the concern in raising capital at a low rate is an expression of the company's solid financial situation, improved profitability and of the improvement in the position of Israeli borrowers in world markets."

The company, Israel's largest chemical group, is engaged in the development, production and marketing of chemicals and fertilizers.

Report: Germany's deficit to exceed EU limit

By KATE KELLAND

BERLIN (Reuters) - Germany will miss the 3.0 Maastricht reference target for budget deficits as a proportion of growth by a long way, despite concentrated efforts to cut spending, the DIW economic institute said yesterday.

"Deep-seated crises in growth and employment could ruin those efforts," the institute said in a special report. "It is very probable that despite a restrictive fiscal policy, an exact fulfillment of the Maastricht Treaty's deficit criterion will not be possible."

It said Germany's 1997 deficit could be as high as 3.5 percent of gross domestic product (GDP) - far above the Maastricht reference ceiling.

The DIW said the losses incurred through high unemployment and sluggish growth were around 50 billion marks a year between 1993 and 1996, with around 15 billion to 20 billion marks a year lost purely as a result of high jobless rates.

In total, the DIW said that around 60% of the budget deficit built up since 1993 could be blamed on unemployment.

German unemployment is currently running at highs of 11.4% of the workforce, or 4.4 million people.

Horst Siebert, head of the Kiel-based IFW economic research institute, last week said that German unemployment was likely to peak at 4.3 million in this economic cycle, but could rise by a further one million people when the next recession hits.

In its report, the DIW criticized the Bonn government's latest measures aimed at cutting the deficit, terming them "transparent creative accounting." But it warned that fresh steps to reduce government spending further could prove extremely dangerous for the economy.

"It would be fatal, if the government were to sharpen its fiscal restrictions further," the report said.

The DIW said it had always insisted that a sustainable reduction in government outlays is only possible during an economic upturn, adding that the latest revisions in tax estimates are proof that the government is further than ever away from this goal.

Estimates for 1997 tax revenue were revised down in May to reveal an expected 15 billion mark shortfall.

While the government is highly likely to miss the Maastricht deficit target for European economic and monetary union (EMU), the DIW said that economically, a strict interpretation of the deficit criterion as 3.0 percent made as little sense as the government's bid to meet it.

"Not only do all these efforts bring immediate negative economic effects with them, but they damage the chances of building stable expectations," the report said.

The development of prices, trade and monetary policy are far more important factors in shaping the quality and stability of a currency than the deficit to GDP ratio, it said.



European cars make splash in Japanese market
A new Audi A6 is displayed at a media preview in Tokyo. Volkswagen Group Japan, which imports and distributes VW and Audi cars to Japan, said it will sell at least 55,000 cars in 1997. (Reuters)

SMART SHOPPING

By RACHEL NEIMAN

This week, more than a million children all over the country returned to the classroom, and the adult population breathed a collective sigh of relief. And the nation's stationery and school-supply stores are now attending to the task of counting revenues after an entire summer of pushing the back-to-school thing. Judging from the heavy barrage of ads and promotions, one would think that the only thing children have on their minds during summer vacation is getting geared up for school. Maybe not, but

Back-to-school sales winding down

schoolkids will spend as much as NIS 500 on their supplies.

According to Shlomo Menahem, chairman of the paper and office-supplies division at the Manufacturers' Association, sales for the entire sector (including office supplies) will reach \$750 million this summer, a 1.5 percent drop as compared to the summer of 1996. It should be noted that sales for all of 1996 were \$1.28b., and annual figures aren't yet in for 1997.

Menahem estimated that imported office and school supplies would reach \$360m. this summer, a 9% rise in dollar terms, compared with last year.

To get their piece of the pie, local manufacturers this year invested \$20m. in new product development. Fic, for example, invested \$100,000 in acquiring the rights to the MTV logo, and designing that product line. Fic said it expected to sell 1.5 million products before the back-to-school season is over, introducing 50 new products in addition to the existing 300.

For its part, the Kravitz chain chose to target the first-time-at-school crowd, a set of notebooks especially designed for first graders, ruled with grids to guide little hands in forming letters. Palphot licensed 101 Dalmatians, Hercules, Barbie,

the NBA logo and fashionable Naf Naf designs for use on its back-to-school products. Bic and 3M importer Guri, who claim a 15% market share of the writing implements market, also expanded back-to-school activity in the hopes of increasing sales 20% to NIS 3.6m. This included receiving the exclusive license to import Ballograph pens to Israel.

Supermarket chains Blue Square and Super-Sol stocked up on competitively priced knapsacks, diaries, notebooks, pens and more.

According to Super-Sol VP of marketing Ya'acov Ginsburg, the chains "wished to respond to customer demand to concentrate all purchases in one place, instead of spread out over specialty stores."

But who could resist - or avoid - the lure of Office Depot, which spent \$500,000 on a TV, radio and print campaign targeted at the forecasted one million back-to-schoolers. The slogan: "Suddenly you feel like going back to school" was crafted with kids in mind, says Tzahi Fishbein, general manager of Office Depot. "Nobody feels like going back to school, but at least you can make the shopping trip fun."

According to Fishbein, the idea this year was to turn the store "into a casino, or carnival environment" taking advantage of Office Depot's economy of scale, in terms of size, buying power and nationwide distribution. In this way, Fishbein says, "we create a differentiation between us and the neighborhood stationery stores."

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MISHTANIM LEADING 100 TASE ISSUES

Table of leading 100 TASE issues with columns for stock name, price, and change.

KARAM SMALL CAPITALIZATION TASE ISSUES

Table of small capitalization TASE issues with columns for stock name, price, and change.

ISRAELI SHARES IN NEW YORK

Table of Israeli shares listed in New York with columns for stock name, price, and change.

AMEX

Table of American Market Exchange (AMEX) stocks with columns for stock name, price, and change.

NASDAQ

Table of National Association of Securities Dealers (NASDAQ) stocks with columns for stock name, price, and change.

NYSE

Table of New York Stock Exchange (NYSE) stocks with columns for stock name, price, and change.

INTERNATIONAL SHARES

Table of international shares with columns for stock name, price, and change.

Vertical text on the right side of the page, possibly a sidebar or advertisement.

PERCENTAGE POINTS

Table of percentage points for various financial metrics.

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TASE follows Wall St. euphoria

Tel Aviv

Stocks in Tel Aviv rose after Israeli companies traded in New York, including Teva Pharmaceutical Industries, gained on Tuesday. Teva rose 3.75% after its American depositary receipts gained 1 7/8 to 54 1/4.

Bank Hapoalim rose 1% amid expectations a group of investors will pay more for the bank than its current share price when the government sells a stake.

"The feeling is that bids will be a bit higher than the current market," said Ron Weisberg, an analyst at Israel Brokerage and Investments.

The Maof Index of 25 issues rose 1.19% to 297.16. Expectations for a relatively low August consumer price index, due to be announced September 15, also boosted share prices, said Asher Sela, a portfolio manager at Etgar, a Tel Aviv investment firm.

"Lower inflation expectations mean there won't be an interest rate increase at the end of the month," said Sela.

Higher interest rates hurt companies as they pay more to borrow money, cutting into profits. Higher rates can also draw money toward interest-rate linked investments and away from stocks.

The Tel Aviv Stock Exchange also expanded its new continuous trading system, adding 10 stocks to the TACT (Tel Aviv Continuous

Trading) Index today. The TACT Index rose 2.04% to 97.88. The stocks were taken from the Mishpatim Index, which rose 1.46% to 289.23. A spokeswoman for the exchange said she did not know when more shares would be added to the TACT Index.

Asia

Japan's benchmark index surged in its biggest one-day jump in four months following the rally in US markets and the dollar's recent gains against the yen. Electronics exporters led the advance.

Tuesday's rise of the Dow Jones Industrial Average gave a psychological lift to the Tokyo market, pulling up shares of top global electronics companies such as Sony and Canon.

"The rise is due to a mix of a lot of good influences, and New York was the trigger," said Christophe Aurand, chief investment officer at Taiyo Life Gamma Asset Management. "It also helped us realize what the situation is that the yen is above 121 and that's great for the blue chips."

The benchmark Nikkei 225 Stock Average rose 502.65 points, or 2.76%, to 18,735.17, its biggest one-day gain since May 6. The Topix average of all shares on the first section rose 33.80 points, or 2.39%, to 1,449.85.

Hong Kong stocks rose for a second day, driving the index up as

STOCKS

Maof 297.16 ▲ 1.19%

Dow Jones 7,894 ▲ 1.4%

FTSE 4976 ▲ 0.5%

Nikkei 18,735 ▲ 2.76%

much as 7.13%, as investors snapped up shares that paced the benchmark index's worst run since 1989.

HSBC Holdings and Hutchison Whampoa led as investors hunted for value after an 18% slide in the index the past month.

The price-earnings ratio of the Hang Seng Index fell from a high of 20 on August 8 to about 16 now. "It's going up on back of Wall Street and the bond market," said James Osborn, a director at ING Barings Securities (HK). "There's going to be a fight to qualify."

Europe

UK shares climbed for a third day, with the FTSE 100 index rising above 5000 for the first time in three weeks after the Dow Jones Industrial Average posted its biggest point gain

over on Tuesday. Oil and bank shares led the benchmark FTSE 100 Index 24.7 points, or 0.50%, higher at 4976.9. The index reached 5027.3 in the first hour of trading, its highest since August 13.

The US "figures lend some weight to the argument that the economy is slowing down. That's a source of relief," said John Hatherly, the head of research at M&G, with about £10 billion invested in the UK equity market.

British shares pared some gains amid concern the US monthly employment report, the most watched indicator of economic growth, may show greater-than-expected strength when it's released tomorrow.

British Petroleum, Shell Transport & Trading, and other UK stocks with a large American shareholder base contributed the most to the British index. BP gained 16.5 pence to 915.5, while Shell rose 4.5 pence to 448.5.

"The movement on Wall Street has been replicated in London," said Philip Isherwood, a UK equity strategist at Dresdner Kleinwort Benson. "The big stocks are leading it again."

UK shares also advanced after the Hang Seng in Hong Kong rose for a second day, halting its worst slide since 1989. Companies that make a lot of their profits in Asia recouped some of their recent losses. (Bloomberg)

Wall Street

NEW YORK - Blue-chip stocks closed slightly higher yesterday as the bulls pulled in their horns in the absence of major economic news to build on the previous session's record gains.

Based on early and unofficial data, the Dow Jones industrial average ended up 14.86 points at 7,894.64, one day after soaring 257 points in its biggest point gain ever on news that the economy was slowing at a pace that will likely deter the Federal Reserve from raising interest rates.

In the broader market, advancing issues outnumbered declines 17 to 10 on active volume of 550 million shares on the New York Stock Exchange.

The Nasdaq Composite closed up 0.14 of a point at 1,618.23. The Dow was up 68 points in a late-day rally before profit-taking cut into the gain.

"We've got good buying follow-through from yesterday. The NAPM report set a good tone and gave us a leveraging device as bargain-hunters returned from their holidays," said Tom Carpenter, chief economist of ASB Capital Management Inc.

On Tuesday, the market raced higher after the National Association of Purchasing Management reported slower-than-expected manufacturing activity in August and subdued inflation. (Reuters)

from an 8-year trough of 1.8905 per dollar on August 6.

The US currency briefly slipped below 121 yen in Asian trading after Jiji Press quoted Japanese Ambassador to the US Kimihiko Saito as saying Japan's ballooning trade surplus with the US may hurt economic ties between the two countries.

More US government officials are expressing their concern about the expanding bilateral trade gap, Saito told a press conference Tuesday, according to the report.

Japan's trade surplus with the US in July grew for the 10th straight month, rising 35.7 percent from a year earlier to 420.55 billion yen.

Signs of trade tension between the US and Japan undermine the dollar by fueling speculation the Clinton administration may talk

up the yen as a way to curb Japan's exports to the US. A stronger dollar helps Japanese exporters by allowing them to lower prices of their products in the American market.

To be sure, US Treasury Secretary Robert Rubin has repeatedly said in past months that the US supports a strong dollar.

Strength in US stocks and bonds, helped by expectations of robust US growth with low inflation, should help underpin the dollar, analysts said.

"There is an interest-rate differential there and the Dow does seem to be outperforming quite a few markets," said Neil Parker, a treasury economist at Royal Bank of Scotland. "That will lead to some influx of money into dollars and out of European currencies." (Bloomberg)

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ending September 5, Iraq only has enough time to export about half its first \$1 billion allotment under current UN rules, traders said, because Iraqi sales didn't start until August 14.

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at 4.8% a 24-year low. Traders and investors expect the non-farm payrolls result to be skewed because of last month's 15-day strike against the United Parcel Service of America Inc.

Yesterday, the government was looking to report on construction spending for July. Spending probably rose 0.8% in the month after falling 1.0% in June, economists said.

The government also was to release its index of leading economic indicators for July. The index probably rose 0.2% after holding steady in June, economists said. (Bloomberg)

Mark recovers after surge in German output

The dollar was little changed near an earlier low against the mark on an unexpected surge in German industrial production.

German industrial output climbed 3.5 percent in July from a month earlier, compared with economists' average forecasts of a 0.5% gain. Still, the bulk of the gain was from exports, which have been made cheaper by the mark's 15% depreciation against the dollar this year.

"The numbers by themselves were somewhat surprising, but the expectation of the market is that German growth is on an improving trend," said Tom Barman, who helps Rothschild Asset Management oversee \$12 billion in assets.

"The question is whether it will ripple into the domestic sector and I don't think today's numbers imply very much with respect to that."

The dollar fell to 1.8207 marks, down more than a penny from 1.8348 late Tuesday, though little changed from before the output report. It was at 121.13 yen, little changed from 121.21 earlier.

The dollar was dragged lower earlier Tuesday after Bundesbank President Hans Tietmeyer said a weak mark would be a burden for Germany and for Europe and that he welcomed the mark's recent strength.

The Bundesbank chief also said a delay to the start of Europe's planned economic and monetary union wouldn't be a catastrophe. Talk of a delay helps the mark, because it puts off the German currency being supplanted by a potentially weaker single currency.

Tietmeyer's comments "helped bring the dollar back down," said

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CURRENCIES

Dollar 3.5158 ▼ 0.03

Basket 3.7493 ▼ 0.04

Mark 1.9306 ▲ 0.04

Sterling 5.5899 ▼ 0.49

Tony Norfield, a treasury economist at ABN Amro Hoare Govett.

The Bundesbank chief, in an interview to be published today in the German weekly Die Woche, said he "welcomed the certain degree of correction in the mark's rates" of recent days, referring to the German currency's climb

from an 8-year trough of 1.8905 per dollar on August 6.

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Plantinum falls as Russia resumes shipments

Precious metals Gold for immediate delivery fell 80 cents to \$321.70 an ounce.

Energy October crude oil rose 7 cents to \$19.72 a barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange as traders awaited a report on oil inventories and production, which was to be released by the American Petroleum Institute after markets closed yesterday.

Traders expect the United Nations in coming days to allow Iraq to defer delivery of some of the oil it's allowed to sell by September 5.

Under a UN-sponsored plan, Iraq can sell \$1 billion of oil during a three-month period

pushed the yield 1 basis point higher to 6.57 percent. The two-year note's yield rose 2 basis points to 5.93%.

Also weighing on bonds is a raft of corporate issues, led by Ford Motor Credit Co.'s \$1 billion of 5-year global bonds, traders said. Securities firms arranging corporate bond sales often hedge against possible losses by selling government securities before the corporate issues are sold.

"We have a couple billion of corporates being priced; that is putting pressure on the market," said Marco Frustaci, a govern-

ment bond trader at Daiwa Securities America Inc.

The central bank could boost its target for fed funds - overnight loans between commercial banks - as early as a

September 30 meeting if reports in coming days show little sign of the booming economy is moderating. The federal funds rate is now 5.5%, where it was set in March.

In particular, investors are looking to tomorrow's employment report, one of the most closely watched monthly indicators. The economy likely added 72,000 new jobs last month, compared with 316,000 in July, according to the average forecast of analysts surveyed by Bloomberg News. The unemployment rate probably was unchanged last month from July,

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Crude Oil \$18.53 ▲ 0.09

CRB 244.06 ▲ 0.4

Gold \$321.85 ▼ 0.65

Commodities

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Robusta coffee for November delivery rose as much as \$5

ITF: Israel-Morocco Davis Cup tie to stay at Ramat Hasharon

By HEATHER CHAIT

Morocco's efforts to change the venue of the Davis Cup tie against Israel from Ramat Hasharon to a neutral country for "security reasons" were thwarted yesterday when the International Tennis Federation decided against moving the event.

Thomas Hallberg, the ITF's Davis Cup director, informed the Moroccan Tennis Federation that there were insufficient reasons to move the tie, scheduled for September 19-21, from the intended site.

A copy of the fax was sent to Israel Tennis Association Chairman David Harnik.

In response to the Moroccan concerns about Israel's security situation, Hallberg stated that the ITF was satisfied that the tie would be held "under safe and secure conditions."

Hallberg also noted that other major international sporting events, including the World Sailing Championships, had recently been held in Israel.

The decision was not met with surprise by the ITA.

"We will abide by all our commitments concerning security arrangements for the Moroccan delegation from the moment of their arrival until they leave," said Yair Engel, Director General of the ITA.

Israel Television reported last night that the Moroccan decision whether to play in Israel would be based on a ruling to be made by King Hassan II.



ON THE BALL - Pat Rafter returns a backhand to Andre Agassi during his US Open victory over the American on Tuesday night. (Reuters)

Rafter ousts Agassi from US Open

NEW YORK (Reuters) - The big stars have dwindled to a precious few at the US Open after fan favorite Andre Agassi lost a scintillating late-night slugfest to red-hot Australian Patrick Rafter in a match that ended early yesterday morning.

"I just let it slip away," Agassi said after the nearly three-hour battle. "I didn't start off sharp. At the end he just did what he needed to do." Rafter played tremendous serve and volley tennis, belting 12 aces and smacking 37 volley winners.

He also came up with some of the best second serves this tournament has seen since his countryman John Newcombe stalked the courts at Forest Hills.

But most impressive was that the 24-year-old Rafter never let the frenzied pro-Agassi crowd get to him, even when the match seemed to be turning the American's way.

Scotland seek Sunday kickoff against Belarus

ABERDEEN (Reuters) - The Scottish Football Association last night proposed playing their World Cup qualifier with Belarus on Sunday to prevent a clash with the funeral of Princess Diana.

BBC Radio said the SFA had asked world body FIFA to allow the match to kick off at 1300 GMT on Sunday.

The funeral for the princess, who was killed in a car crash in Paris last Sunday, is in London on Saturday.

Both sides were reported to have agreed to the rescheduling.

Three key Scotland players, all from Glasgow Rangers, had said they would not play if the match went ahead on Saturday while politicians demanded action by the soccer authorities to change the date.

One of Scotland's most famous former players, Denis Law, said playing the match at the same time as the funeral could "tarnish Scotland's image."

Sunday had previously been ruled out as Belarus play another qualifier against Austria next Wednesday, allowing them little time to recover.

Scotland manager Craig Brown had suggested a Friday match.

England to the top of Scotland and it's only proper to pull out and show our respect," Scotland manager Craig Brown said he fully understood the position of his players and suggested it would be better to play on Friday.

"It's an unusual situation and I respect the decision of Ally McCoist and the others," he said.

"Football players are very resilient about personal grief but I think pressure from their families is now playing a part."

"The weight of public opinion is against the game going ahead on Saturday. That would make it very difficult for my players," said Brown.

"I would like to see everything sorted out soon so the players can concentrate on the game but there is a sombre mood in the camp reflecting the mood of the country," Durie said his was a personal decision and no pressure had been put on him or others.

Scottish Secretary Donald Dewar had earlier expressed "great concern" to the Scottish FA for deciding to go ahead with the game.

Dewar was particularly concerned because Belarus were apparently willing to play the fixture on another day, a spokesman for the ruling Labor party said.

Shops will shut and much of daily life in Britain will grind to a halt on Saturday for Princess Diana's funeral.

Stockholm and Cape Town emerge unscathed in Lausanne

LAUSANNE (Reuters) - Stockholm and Cape Town yesterday successfully defended charges that they had broken International Olympic Committee (IOC) regulations as the race to stage the 2004 Summer Games headed for the finish line.

The IOC will decide the hosts here tomorrow from a list which also includes Athens, Buenos Aires and Rome.

On Tuesday a senior IOC official said Stockholm and Cape Town had been warned about infringements of IOC rules.

Martin fumes over Ryder Cup omission

MADRID (Reuters) - Spaniard Miguel Angel Martin claimed yesterday that he had been thrown off Europe's Ryder Cup team because he was not a big enough name.

"There is a big difference to the sponsors between Tiger Woods playing Nick Faldo and Tiger Woods playing Miguel Angel Martin. Nobody in America or England knows Miguel Angel Martin," Martin's 10th spot gave him the last place on the list of automatic qualifiers for the European team to play the US at Valderrama later this month.

"I want the best for Europe and the best for Spain. If I feel bad I will be the first to say so but there is a further two weeks before I have to make a decision," Martin was also disappointed by the way the Ryder Cup Committee went about reaching its decision.

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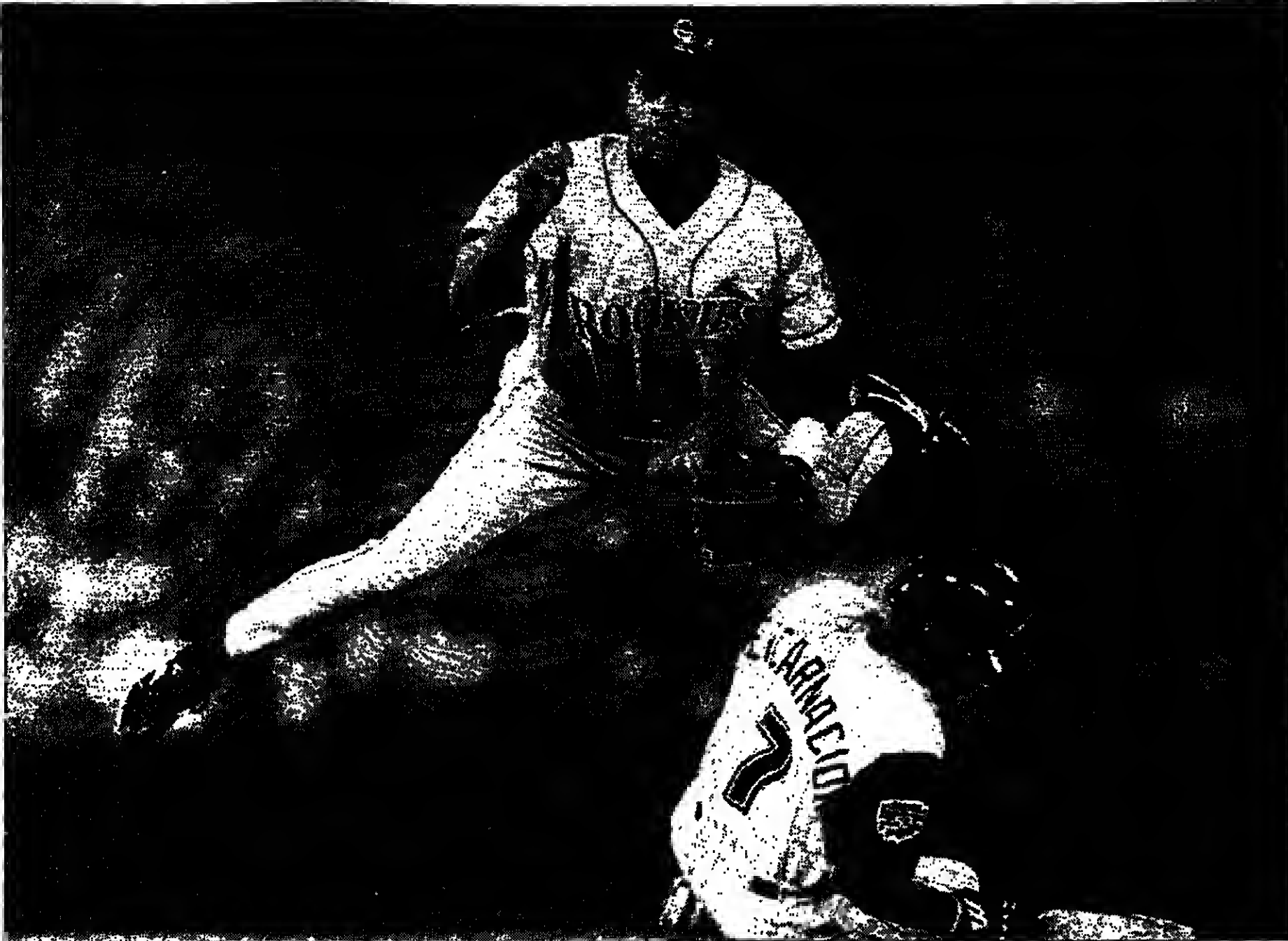
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PREVENTATIVE ACROBATICS - Colorado Rockies second baseman Neifi Perez jumps to avoid incoming Anaheim Angels Angel Encarnacion during third-inning action in Anaheim on Tuesday. Colorado won the game 7-2.

Philadelphia routs New York 5-0

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Mike Grace, who got his first major-league win in 15 months last week, pitched a three-hitter Tuesday night to lead the Philadelphia Phillies to a 5-0 win over the New York Yankees.

Grace (2-0) allowed a fourth-inning single to Derek Jeter — who was thrown out stealing — an eighth-inning single to Paul O'Neill, and a leadoff single to Charlie Hayes in the ninth.

Both of Dunston's homers — his 10th and 11th of the season — came off Jaret Wright (5-3), who was out-pitched by Jose Silva (1-0) in a matchup of rookie starters. Wright gave up five runs in six innings, while Silva allowed three in 6 1-3 innings.

Matt Williams extended his hitting streak to a career-high 19 games for Cleveland.

Jose Rosado (9-11) took the loss. Pete Rose Jr. pinch hit for Burba in the fifth and struck out on four pitches, but was warmly applauded anyway by the hometown fans.

Ed Vosberg (1-0) retired two batters with the bases loaded in the 10th.

Jose Cruz Jr. homered twice and drove in three runs for Toronto.

Bob Tewksbury (5-11) allowed 10 hits and five runs over three innings.

Brewers moved within 2 1-2 games of first-place Cleveland in the AL Central.

The Astros dropped their sixth straight and saw their lead in the NL Central shrink to 1 1/2 games over second-place Pittsburgh, which beat the Indians 6-4.

WNBA not all sugar and spice

NEW YORK (Reuter) — "You guys are too nice," Charlotte Sting coach Maryknell Meadows yelled in fond exasperation during a WNBA regular-season game when her players stopped to look after a fallen New York Liberty player instead of pushing the ball downcourt.

Both teams overcame the "niceness" handicap to make the playoffs where the Houston Comets, led by league Most Valuable Player Cynthia Cooper, beat the Liberty in Saturday's title game to cap an inaugural season of stunning marketing success and steady but incomplete improvement in the quality of play.

The WNBA players (average salary \$30,000) did all they could to be fan-friendly and media-cooperative — a refreshing change for people who perceive NBA stars (average salary \$2.3 million) as surly, greedy and arrogant.

The WNBA has little of the above-the-rim athleticism of the NBA — nobody dunks — but the best teams developed tough defenses and the Comets, at least, developed a consistent offensive philosophy: get Cooper open and get her the ball.

Well-traveled American veteran Ruthie Bolton-Hollfield of the WNBA's Sacramento Monarchs lists ABL players — mostly former Olympic teammates of hers — she says are as good as the WNBA's but adds: "Of course I would say we're the better league."

England's Andrea Congreaves said: "This league is a step up. You've got what I consider the best players in the world." "I think it's the best in the world so far as I know," German league and national team member Marlies Askamp of the Mercury said.

Mikiko Hagiwara, described by a Japanese reporter as "the legend of Japanese basketball," said through an interpreter that the WNBA represents "the toughest basketball, the best league."

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MAJOR LEAGUE LINESCORES

Table with columns for team names and game results. Includes scores for NY (AL), Philadelphia, Cleveland, Detroit, Boston, Montreal, Kansas City, Cincinnati, Minnesota, Baltimore, Florida, and others.

MAJOR LEAGUE STANDINGS

Table showing National League and American League standings. Columns include Division, Team, W, L, Pct, and GB.

MAJOR LEAGUE LEADERS

Table listing league leaders in various categories such as Batting, Home Runs, Stolen Bases, Pitching, and Saves.



Neighboring support: Namibian sprinter Frankie Fredericks, supporting Cape Town's bid to stage the 2004 Olympics, poses next to a South African sculpture at the Palais de Beaulieu in Lausanne, Switzerland yesterday. A decision on the venue for the 2004 Games will be made by the members of the International Olympic Committee in the Swiss city tomorrow.

Weekender

By ROBBY BERMAN

Blood is thicker than water in Mario Puzo's new TV miniseries 'The Last Don'

Would you be scared if two very ethnic-looking Jews from Bnei Brak came to your front door and said in a thick Yiddish accent, "We have a message from the *Mishpaha*?" Probably not. That's because to most Jews, the word "family" doesn't have the connotation that it has in the world of the Mafia.

The new TV miniseries *The Last Don* casts two Mediterranean-looking Sicilian men, with slicked-back hair, to deliver a message from a more ominous sounding family.

Courtesy of Reshet *The Last Don*, which aired in America in May, will begin airing on Channel 2 tomorrow at 10 p.m. One might have great expectations for a TV series that employs talented experienced actors and is based on a book written by *The Godfather* author, Mario Puzo. Don't.

The three-part six-hour miniseries is a contemporary drama which revolves around the most powerful crime family in America, led by their Don, Domenico Clericuzio (Danny Aiello).

Anguished over the murder of his favorite son at the hands of the rival Santadio crime family, Don Clericuzio is shown in the first episode facing a terrible dilemma when his daughter Rose Marie (Kirstie Alley) requests permission to marry Jimmy Santadio. The Don reluctantly allows the union, then assigns his nephew Pipi (Joe Mantegna), along with his own sons, to carry out the murders of the whole Santadio family, on his daughter's wedding night. Rose Marie survives the massacre, but her five-hour-old bridegroom doesn't. Nine months later, Rose Marie gives birth to a baby Santadio.

The second episode concerns a beautiful film star played by a beautiful film star - Daryl Hannah. She's about to pull out, mid-production, of a \$100-million movie because she is being stalked by her ex-husband. He threatens to reveal a dark secret from her past if she has him arrested. The film studio threatens to sue the actress and promises her that if she doesn't finish the film, she will never work in the industry again. Her *deus ex machina* comes in the form of a Clericuzio family member, Cross. Madly in love with the actress, he has no qualms about kidnapping her ex-husband, forcing him to write a suicide note, and leaving him hanging by his neck from a tree.

THE un compelling, adagio-moving plot never changes its tempo throughout the three parts. The leitmotifs of murder, love, loyalty and betrayal predictably repeat themselves ad nauseam.

Danny Aiello's lackluster performance as the Don just doesn't deliver. But he's in good company because neither do most of the other actors. You never really feel the drama, you're never too concerned about the victims, and you're never too entertained.

Kirstie Alley, who plays the Don's widowed psychotic daughter, does convincingly cry, mourn and bitch throughout the series.

The dark side of family life



Mobster Pipi (Joe Mantegna, left) takes orders from his uncle, crime boss Domenico Clericuzio (Danny Aiello) in 'The Last Don.'

And Joe Mantegna, who plays Pipi, the main family executioner, does manage to endow his character with some charm. But most of the miscast actors portray characters that are fatally two-dimensional.

Every Sicilian in this miniseries gives cheesy advice to any other younger Sicilian who will listen. "Tell nothing of yourself"; "Love is an emotion that is not to be

downright boring. The story is, however, replete with the requisite - take a deep breath - obsequious hand kissing, triple-cheek-kissing greetings, family meetings, over-the-shoulder wispers, Sicilian food, christenings, suicides, executions and their respective wakes, unsuspecting non-Italian wives and their respective beatings, Italian operatic music, wrought-

iron gates adorned with family escutcheons, and good old-fashioned blood.

So if you've been in Israel long enough that you're nostalgically starved - to the point where you've lowered your standards - for the American-Italian mafioso genre, you might want to order in a pizza and indulge yourself with *The Last Don*.

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Hot tips

By KAREN SULKIS

Tel Aviv

THE immortal Vincent Price is at his fiendish, 3-D best in *House of Wax*. The perfect midnight movie screens tonight and tomorrow at (when else?) midnight. Price is preceded both nights at 10 by Alfred Hitchcock's *Dial M for Murder* (which in Hebrew apparently translates into *Alibi*), starring Ray Milland and another princess who met with a tragic and untimely end, Grace Kelly.

BLUE Bag plays at Yad Lebanim tonight at 9:30.

YOSEF Bar-Yosef's *Father of the Groom* explores the often explosive dynamics of family weddings. Tonight at 8:30 on the ZOA House stage. Call (03) 695-9341.

MOADON Hateatron presents *Bar, Women and Sympathy*, a Broadway-style musical tribute to gangsters of the 1920s-1940s. Directed by Yisrael Gurion.

TONIGHT at 8:30, Shakespeare's *A Comedy of Errors* moves from jolly old England to the New Middle East - and the Cameri stage. Directed by Omri Nitzan.

THE noxious and polluted Hayarkon River is still making news around the world. With "City, Nature and Environment in Metropolitan Tel Aviv," local environmentalists and academics look into the situation. This meeting and panel discussion takes place tomorrow from 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Eretz Yisrael Museum, 80 Rokach Boulevard in Ramat Aviv. Call (03) 642-3111.

ENJOY a night of Jewish culture with Yonatan Shefran. The fun starts tonight at 7:30, 86 Ben-Yehuda Street. Call (03) 647-2283.

If you can stay up late enough, you can crash the opening-night party for Cat, the Israeli drama and short-film festival. Saturday night (OK, technically Sunday) at 12:15 a.m. at Cinematheque. Call (03) 691-7181.

FRED Wadley plays calypso and



Pop group Tea Packs pays tribute to Zohar Argov in Jerusalem.

jazz from 11 p.m. At Camelot, 16 Shalom Aleichem. Call (03) 528-5222.

Jerusalem

IT'S a tribute to Zohar Argov tonight at the Sultan's Pool. Plenty of big stars will be there, including the band currently known as Tea Packs, Ethnix, Ebud Bansi, Avihu Medina and many more.

The show starts at 8.

TODAY at 5:30 p.m., the Jerusalem Symphony is giving a concert the whole family can enjoy. The program consists of classical, easy listening and popular tunes. At the Jerusalem Zoo. The event is part of the city's 30th Summer Celebrations.

THE celebration continues on Saturday night with a free summer dance party at Safra Square. Avner Naim, Boaz Cohen and Sarit Doron will be on hand. Music starts at 9 p.m.

WHILE the rest of the world is celebrating 100 years since that famous conference in Basel, why not seize the moment to see some early Zionism with your own eyes. Stop by the Ticho House and check out its long-running photo show *Medicine and Zionism*. It gives the inside story on this country's first Jewish doctors. The Ticho House is located off of Harav Kook Street, not far from Zion Square.

Stars are born at Bull Dog

By PAM BECKER

Looking for a place to belt out that favorite song from Lyric seventh grade in front of 150 or so people? Then perhaps you're due for a visit to Tel Aviv's popular karaoke bar Bull Dog, where East meets Middle East.

When it's your turn, the DJ plays the song of your choice and a video appears on a TV screen. The words to the song are highlighted as you sing into the microphone. Warning: a TV screen with the lyrics also faces the audience, who just might sing along.

One of the more interesting elements of Bull Dog is seeing who sings what. Who hogs the microphone from her friends, who takes it seriously and serenades his girlfriend, and who is actually really good at it.

Natan Kensch, originally a New Yorker who has spent the last 27 of his 38 years in Israel, opened Bull Dog six years ago. He remarked, "It amazes me how much people enjoy themselves... There's a singer and performer in all of us, and we enjoy the applause." Kensch himself studied voice in high school but never pursued a singing career. "Maybe someday," he laughed.

One American-Israeli (27) commented that karaoke "is not something I normally do, but it was funny. Lots of laughs. But a bad point was that the DJ didn't get to everyone." With the pub packed with people, not everyone who submits a request gets a turn to sing.

The decor is black. The music is loud and gets stronger as it gets later. The karaoke starts at 11 and by 12:30, the place hits its stride. During dance songs, some of the patrons stand up on their chairs or on the stage and dance along. The type of music depends, for the most part, on the selections of the customers, who make their choices from an extensive list of song titles; but the four DJs who rotate shifts select music as well.

Bull Dog is filled with a series of long tables. At the end is the stage, the DJ station, and the television sets. The long tables reflect the way people come to Bull Dog - in groups of five to 45, with an average of about 20, though there are smaller tables for couples and smaller groups.

The age of the crowd varies, with young groups of soldiers to older groups from the office.

The minimum charge is NIS 31 on weekdays, NIS 38 on Saturdays, and NIS 48 on Friday nights. Tasty deep-fried potato chunks go for NIS 18 and crudites that are, oddly enough, boiled, for NIS 34. A wide selection of drinks ranges from Maccabi beer (NIS 13) and Guinness (NIS 20) - Goldstar and Heineken are on tap - to about 90 different cocktails (daiquiris, for example, are NIS 27).

If this appeals to you and you're planning to go there on the weekend, call first and make a reservation because the place fills up quickly. Lots of fun. NOTE: Bull Dog is not a place for introverts.

Museums on my mind

Israel Museum director James Snyder talks about his favorite museums

James Snyder was named director of the Israel Museum a year ago. He took up his post in January and is busy figuring out the direction this important cultural institution should take in the coming years. He's not planning big changes to the breadth of the collection but wants to renovate some of the galleries and to focus on its children's education programs.

Snyder, a Harvard University graduate, came from the Museum of Modern Art in New York, after falling in love with the Israel Museum as soon as he saw it. He describes himself as "something of a student of museums."

Says Snyder, "I've visited hundreds and hundreds of them."

Dutch early 20th-century art. It was built by the Kroeller-Mueller family and designed by Mies van der Rohe, and then it was given to the state. It has beautiful modernist pavilions in wonderful outdoor installations."

4. Musée de Cluny, Paris "There's just something about the atmosphere of the place. It's in the amazing synthesis of the architectural setting and the kind of art shown in that setting. It's almost an accident to call it a museum, but it is one."

It's more of an architectural artifact that has very beautiful medieval things in it. It has wonderful carvings and tapestries from that era."

1. The Israel Museum

Obviously, "I'd never been to Israel when I began talking with the people from the museum about this job. I came and had a look and was amazed. It has in a very short time built up a collection as good as any general museum anywhere in the world. Also, I'm a modernist by training and I loved its architectural design, which melds with the stunning landscape where it sits so beautifully. The modern and contemporary sculpture outside is the best in the world when it comes to the design of the garden - it's hard to know where the sculpture garden ends and the landscape begins. It's done so seamlessly."

2. The Museum of Modern Art, New York

"I spent my whole life there, the 22 years after leaving college, and I was beginning to think I'd spend my whole life there, which wouldn't be so bad. I worked on the expansion of the building, buying the Dorset Hotel. I also put on big retrospectives, like the Picasso and Matisse exhibits. It's a wonderful place."

3. The Kroeller-Mueller Museum, Hoge Veluwe, Holland

"It's a museum of modern art, but in particular I like the setting. It has a heavy concentration of



5. The Meneal Collection, Houston

"Again, this is very much contextual museum architecture. And it's quite small, too. I like that. I always think - despite the fact that I worked at MOMA, which is a huge museum, and now here at the Israel Museum, which has half a million objects - that 40 items make a good exhibit. At MOMA, we did a small exhibit on Matisse in Morocco. There's just something about small exhibits that draws you into them."

- Matt Rees

AFTER HOURS

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Taking advantage of summer's bounty



Weekender Food & Drink

By DEBORAH HORNBLow

(Niçoise, Provençal or Kolanatai for a more robust flavor.)

As children return to school and the weather begins to get cooler, the summer harvest presents its grand finale - a fireworks festival featuring tomatoes and squashes exploding off the vine, the dazzle of golden corn and a last hurrah for fresh berries, peaches and nectarines.

Given what the garden patch provides, the best thing a cook can do is not mess with Mother Nature. Kitchen duty should be more about enhancing than cooking.

The following recipes all show off the summer bounty, and most require no more than five main ingredients, not counting staples such as salt, pepper, olive oil or water.

All are winners - straightforward, easy dishes that make the most of this season of abundance.

CORN ON THE COB WITH HERB BUTTER

Some people think fresh corn on the cob needs no embellishment. But if you've been eating a lot of it, fresh herb butter makes an interesting variation.

Use any combination of herbs and seasonings you like. In addition to fresh herbs, butters can be flavored with dried herbs and powders (such as chipotle or cumin) and flavoring agents including citrus zest (a little goes a long way), minced fresh chili peppers and garlic.

4 Tbsp. (or more, to taste) chopped fresh herbs, such as basil, thyme, oregano, chervil, chives and/or tarragon
1/2 cup butter, softened

Combine herbs and butter, mixing until well blended. Transfer butter to a sheet of wax paper, spreading butter out to form a rough log shape. Roll up paper, twisting the ends, and transfer the log to the refrigerator for at least 1 hour, until butter is firm enough to slice.

Slice butter into disks and use to top corn on the cob, or other vegetables.

TOMATO-ZUCCHINI BAKE

There are as many variations of summer squash bakes as there are zucchinis. This version goes together in a flash, and it is delicious.

The quantities can be adjusted to feed the hordes. Add onion slices and slivered black olives

1 large zucchini, sliced as thinly as possible
4 plum tomatoes, sliced as thinly as possible
6 cloves garlic, minced
2 Tbsp. fresh oregano, dill or basil, or a combination
salt and freshly ground black pepper, to taste
3 Tbsp. olive oil

Preheat oven to 200°. Lightly oil a medium-size baking dish.

Arrange zucchini and tomato slices in overlapping rows. Sprinkle the top with 3 Tbsp. warm water. In a small bowl, combine the garlic, fresh herbs, salt, pepper and olive oil. Spoon the mixture over the vegetables as evenly as possible. Cover pan tightly with aluminum foil and bake for 30 to 40 minutes or until vegetables are tender. (Serves 2-3 as a side dish.)



SUMMER FRITTATA WITH CARAMELIZED ONIONS, RED PEPPER AND FRESH THYME

When the house is full of people or when you're cooking for just one or two, frittata is a delicious ally. It can be served warm or at room temperature. It is great for breakfast, snacks, lunch or dinner. It can be made with any combination of meats and vegetables and cheese. You need only mix in enough egg to bind the mixture.

The following version can be adapted to suit your tastes. Goat cheese is great in place of the Parmesan (just sprinkle it over the top before sliding the skillet in the oven). Leftover cooked corn and shredded zucchini (rolled in a towel to remove excess moisture then briefly sautéed) also make great seasonal variations.

2 to 3 Tbsp. olive oil
3 medium onions, sliced as thin as possible
1 red bell pepper, cored, seeded and sliced
1 1/2 Tbsp. fresh thyme (leaves only)
6 eggs
1/2 cup Parmesan cheese
salt and freshly ground black pepper

Preheat oven to 190°. Set an 20- or 23-cm. ovenproof skillet over medium heat. Add 2 Tbsp. olive oil and, when it is hot, add sliced onions. Cover and cook, stirring occasionally, until onions yield their moisture. Remove cover and continue to cook until onions give up all their moisture and begin to turn golden, about 15 to 20 minutes. (If they begin sticking, add more oil.)

When onions are done, add red pepper and cook until it is just tender, 2 to 3 minutes. Add the thyme, stirring to combine, and season with salt and pepper.

In a medium-size bowl, combine eggs and 2 Tbsp. cheese, beating with a fork until well blended. Pour egg mixture into the skillet, using a spatula to distribute the egg mixture and vegetables evenly.

Sprinkle remaining cheese over the top and transfer skillet to the top rack of the oven. Bake until frittata turns a golden brown around the edges (it will puff up in the center), about 10 minutes.

Let frittata stand for a few minutes before slicing it into wedges. Serve warm or at room temperature. (Makes 6 to 8 wedges.)

PEACHES WITH MINT AND BALSAMIC VINEGAR

These peaches make a delicious sweet-tart dessert served alone. The recipe, borrowed from The Splendid Table, also can be made using strawberries, apricots, melon or pears. Serve the fruit alone for a lively, light dessert or spoon them atop slices of angel food or pound cake.

2 pints fresh peaches
about 1 Tbsp. sugar
2 Tbsp. high-quality balsamic vinegar
8 to 9 sprigs fresh mint, washed and chopped

Wash, pit and dry peaches. Taste for sweetness, and sprinkle with sugar as needed. Sprinkle with vinegar and chopped mint, tossing gently to combine. (Serves 4 to 6.) (The Hartford Courant)

Food Adventures in Yemen

MANDI

1/2 cup oil
1 kg. beef or lamb stew meat
1/2 tsp. cinnamon
1/2 tsp. cumin
1/2 tsp. cardamom
1/2 tsp. pepper
1 clove garlic
2 400-gr. cans diced tomatoes
1 tsp. salt

Heat oil in skillet until hot. Add meat, cinnamon, cumin, cardamom and pepper and fry until meat is browned on all sides, 5 to 7 minutes.

Add garlic and cook 1 minute. Add tomatoes and salt and simmer, covered, for 1 hour. Remove cover and simmer until meat is tender and the sauce fairly thick, 1 1/4 to 1 3/4 hours. Serve with pita or rice. (Serves 4-6.)

MARAG AL-BAMYA Okra stew

for the stew:
1/2 cup oil
1 kg. beef or lamb stew meat
2 large onions, chopped
3 cloves garlic, minced
400-gr. can diced tomatoes
1/2 cup water
salt
1 tsp. pepper
1/2 tsp. cardamom
1/2 tsp. cumin
2 tsp. sugar
for the okra:
2 Tbsp. tamarind concentrate
water
salt
1 kg. okra

Heat oil in skillet over high heat. Add meat and fry until browned on all sides, 5 to 7 minutes. Remove meat.

Reduce heat to medium high. Add onions and cook until softened and golden, 3 to 5 minutes. Add garlic and cook 30 seconds. Add tomatoes, water, salt, pepper, cardamom, cumin and sugar. Bring to a boil, then reduce heat to



Okra stew

simmer. Return meat to skillet, cover and cook until meat is nearly done, about 1 1/2 to 2 hours.

Meanwhile, dissolve tamarind concentrate in 1/4 cup water.

Bring 4 liters salted water to boil. Add okra and boil until tender-crisp, 5 to 7 minutes. Drain.

Arrange okra carefully on meat in skillet. Pour tamarind water evenly over meat and okra and simmer 30 minutes without stirring.

Serve with rice. (Serves 6.)

BINT AL-SAHN

Bint al-sahn, "the daughter of the pan," is a famous dish of Sana. We might serve it as an exotic dessert, but in Sana, it is the first course of a fancy meal.

2 15-gr. packages dry yeast
water
7 1/2 cups whole-wheat flour
1 tsp. salt

(Los Angeles Times)

Phyllis's Notebook

Alive with 5



By PHYLLIS GLAZER

Despite the fact that the US Department of Health and Human Services now relies on the "pyramid" instead of the Five (Famous) Food Groups as a directive for healthy eating, it has found that people are sometimes confused about what kind and how many fruits and vegetables to eat a day.

According to the American Public Health Service, five is the magic number - eat at least five servings of different fruits and vegetables every day to help prevent cancer and get the vital amount of fiber needed daily. To help matters along, APHS even has an Internet site (<http://www.dpc.ncl.nih.gov/5ad>), which contains surveys, findings, oews from the National Cancer Institute, recipes and tips.

What is a serving of fruits and vegetables? The National Cancer Institute defines it as 1/2 cup of dried fruit, a cup of raw leafy vegetables like lettuce or spinach, 1/2 cup cooked lentils or other beans, 1/2 cup of raw or cooked vegetables or a medium-sized fruit.

Some of the suggestions offered by the APHS to increase your produce intake are:

- having your morning cereal with raisins or a banana;
- cutting fresh fruit into your yogurt rather than buying the pre-flavored kind;
- drinking 100% fruit juice (which has no fiber but does have vitamin and mineral content);
- bringing vegetable sticks or cherry tomatoes to work or school in a bag;
- adding frozen vegetables to casseroles or stews for the last five minutes of cooking time;
- giving children fresh fruit or fruit salad as a snack.

Mini guide to fruits and vegetables

Although the APHS recommends canned or frozen fruits and vegetables alongside fresh ones, fresh ones are always best, provided they haven't been sitting in your refrigerator all week. Frozen vegetables should be avoided if they contain ice, since crushed ice in the package is a sure sign the produce has been defrosted and refrozen.

Canned fruits and vegetables are always processed in large vats of water, to which the inherent vitamins gladly migrate, so frozen is always a better choice than canned. Canned fruits also contain large amounts of sugar.

Microwaved vegetables are also acceptable, if they are cooked with a minimum amount of water.

For a mid-morning pick-me-up, some fresh or dried fruit in a pocketbook, back-pack or the glove compartment of your car provides quick relief.

Apricots, carrots, mangos, lettuce, pumpkins, spinach and sweet potatoes all contain high amounts of vitamin A. Vitamin C can be found in apricots, broccoli, cabbage, cauliflower, chili peppers, grapefruits, melons, kiwis, mangos, oranges and orange juice, plums, potatoes with skin, spinach, strawberries, bell peppers, tomatoes and watermelons.

Apples (with skin), bananas, brussels sprouts, cooked beans and peas, dates, figs, grapefruits, kiwis, oranges, pears, prunes, spiroach, strawberries and potatoes with skin are good sources of fiber.



Where to stay in Israel

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Where to eat in Israel

JERUSALEM

ANGELO RISTORANTE ITALIANO - Frommer's 1997 Guide says, "The most superb pasta in the country." Also fresh fish & Roman specialties. K kosher Dairy Cal owners Angelo Di Segni / Lori Rosenkrantz for reservations. 9 Horvankos, Tel. 02-623 6095.

EUCALYPTUS - The taste of Israel from Biblical Days. Excellent meat, fish & vegetarian dishes enhanced by a masterful use of herbs and spices. Luncheon specials. Evening entertainment. Rave reviews. Kosher. 7 Horvankos St. Tel. 02-624 4331.

LITTLE JERUSALEM - The Ticho House, Kosher Dairy & Fish. Open for breakfast, lunch, dinner. Delightful garden setting. Free entrance to the famous Anna Ticho Museum. Live Jazz Tuesday Evenings. 9 HaRav Kook St. Tel. 02-624 4186

PERA & MELA (Ages Ve Tapuah) - authentic pasta & Italian specialties, prepared by former Italians, Giannina & Miriam Ottolenghi. Also crepes, pizzas. 7 Hama'ot St. (off King George) Tel. 02-625 1975 Kosher-dairy. Glass of wine with this ad.

RIENZI - Candlelight dining in an elegant decor. Fresh fish and homemade pasta. Kosher-Dairy. Business lunch from NIS 35. 10 King David St. (Across from Hebrew Union College). Tel. 02-622 2312.

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THE LEBANON RESTAURANT - Main road outside Rosh Pina, near Paz filling station. A connoisseur's oriental restaurant. Selection grilled meats, salt-water fish, schwarme, humous + ful bread, salads, and many main courses. Tel. 06-693 7568.

Where to visit in Israel

GENERAL

SAVE TIME AND MONEY - Contact Judy at SIGHTSEEING TOURS, 81 Hayarkon St., Tel Aviv. Tel. 03-517 6248, Fax. 03-517 8835 (from International fax 972-3-517 8835). Booking daily sightseeing tours to all of Israel, Jordan and Egypt.

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What to do in Israel

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EN GEDI COUNTRY - Dead Sea, resort hotel, restaurants, thermo-mineral spa (black mud and swimming pool), botanical gardens, special events center. Tel. 972-7-659 4760 email: eg@kibbutz.co.il

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DAY TRIPPER

Coffee at the khan - by law

By HAIM SHAPIRO

Sometimes you have to go out of your way to see something interesting. Other times it is thrust upon you - like with the caravansary of Sha'ar Hagai.

I thought of this handsome building after receiving a copy of Eliahu Stern's *Hanim, Drachim Ufundakin* ("Caravansaries, Roads and Inns in Israel"), published by Carta. Of the over 80 caravansaries Stern describes, some are almost inaccessible and others all but destroyed, but this one still sits at the roadside, in relatively good shape.

The Khan of Bab el-Wad, Stern tells us, was built in the Ottoman period, when the carriage road from Jaffa to Jerusalem was paved. It was described by numerous pilgrims, writers and travelers. The travelers could rest here and coachmen could also change their horses.

Stern quotes Ita Yellin, the daughter of Yehiel Michal Pines, who wrote around the turn of the century of arrival at the khan, and a few hours' rest there.

Some of the passengers, Yellin wrote, got down from the carriage and ascended to the coffee house of Shlomo Rosenthal, where one could find a bed and supper. All those in her party brought their own food - but everyone had to



The Khan of Bab el-Wad: Enjoy an interesting site without exerting yourself.

have black coffee, according to law. Even those who remained in the carriage had to pay two metal coins for the coffee.

With the introduction of the railroad line to Jerusalem in 1892, the khan fell into disrepair, and it has remained in that state ever since.

What is left of the khan can be seen by those going by car from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem (don't try to cross the highway if you are going

in the other direction). On the ground floor, where there was a stable and a bakery, you can still see the stone troughs and the oven. Of the upper story, which had a roof with rafters, little is left.

If you are driving away from Jerusalem, you can only view the khan from afar, but if you park near the gas station you can make your way along the path up the hill for about 200 meters to view the remains of a Turkish guard post.

To be frank, I am not actually recommending that you stop to see the site. A visit to the khan isn't exactly an uplifting experience, since the building is all too often used as an impromptu toilet, and the surrounding area is full of junk.

I would, however, like to make a plea to those who have the authority to do something about it: The khan is begging to be restored as a restaurant or simple rest stop and snack bar.

Many a time have I driven along that road yearning for a cup of coffee, a cold drink, or a sandwich at just that point.

However, the site seems hopelessly crumpled in red tape. The khan itself is a nature reserve, while the surrounding area belongs to the National Parks Authority. Couldn't the relevant bodies get together and do something about it?



Paragliding - for those who envy the birds. Up aloft with Netanya's Arriba school.

European Union to dispense with duty-free

By DIK BEVERIDGE

Travelers caught in the hustle of Europe's airports are bombarded with ads promoting duty-free sales. But this summer, many of the signs have been carrying a warning, crossing out the crucial word "free."

The European Union plans to eliminate all EU duty-free sales on June 30, 1999, and the \$6.4 billion a year industry is lobbying hard to avoid extinction.

The idea of wiping out duty-free doesn't sit well with many travelers, though some acknowledge it might make little difference because they can often get better deals when they get where they're going.

"I think it's bad, but I'm not surprised," said Angela, a Londoner riding the ferry across the English Channel to stock up on duty-free items in France. "I think we should have duty-free something," she said. "It's not fair. We pay so much taxes on everything."

Across Europe, lobbyists are also posting their signs on ferries and hovercrafts, hoping customers will pressure the politicians. Spaniards are urged to support "la continuidad del duty-free," while the English are told that "traveling would never be the

same again." Without duty-free, the industry claims, airline and ferry tickets would cost more, and some ferry routes would be wiped out without the subsidies from onboard duty-free sales. "It's kind of a no-win situation, but there are plenty of losers," said Jacqui Crane, spokeswoman for the Duty-Free Confederation in London.

It remains unclear whether the last-gasp effort can succeed, 50 years after Europe's duty-free industry was founded in a small airport kiosk in Shannon, Ireland. The approval of all 15 EU finance ministers would be necessary. Thus far, the lobbyists can count on just one-third: Germany, Spain, France, Greece and Italy.

Ask a variety of vacationers, and you get mixed views about the value of duty-free. Eric Stranex, from Preston, England, took a ferry to Calais and said he gets a better deal buying his Belgian beer in France, even paying the French duty.

The cost is about 10 pence (56 agurot) for a small bottle, compared to the 40 pence (NIS 2.24) he pays at home, with none of the strict limits on quantity that duty-free shoppers face. Duty-free limits purchases to just three or four bottles of wines and spirits.

Duty-free champagne onboard was sever-

al pounds cheaper than in London, and cheaper yet in a French supermarket. Again, with no limits on quantity.

For Britons going to France, Spain, or other such EU countries, there is no limit on purchases one can make. The British government has devised guidelines that come to 120 bottles of wine, several hundred cans of beer, and a few dozen bottles of spirits and fortified wine. At that quantity, no questions are asked.

"As far as duty-free is concerned, it seems a waste of time," Stranex said. His wife disagreed, saying she saves on perfume. "It's exciting when you get that little something duty-free," she said, sitting near the boat's huge duty-free shop, where the liquor bottles clink along with the motion of the sea.

The EU plans to get rid of duty-free because, as it becomes a single market, goods can be transported freely across borders for personal consumption with - theoretically - no need for people to pay import and export duties.

"But it's theory, not practice," said Edward Orr, from Kent, England. Exactly, say the lobbyists.

Some nations, such as Britain, impose taxes on liquor and tobacco many times higher than their neighbors do.

Many Britons ride the ferries to stock up on alcohol and tobacco in France. Duty-free is also cheaper than British prices; but with limits on quantity, it's impossible to make the type of huge savings enjoyed by day-trippers who come back with a car so full of booze the axles could snap.

Duty-free sales will continue for people flying between EU nations and other countries. One of the top European players, the British airport operating company BAA PLC, made a large US acquisition in August to hedge its bets. BAA paid NIS 2,365 million for Duty Free International Inc., which operates about 175 duty-free stores in 14 international airports, including Kennedy and La Guardia in New York, O'Hare in Chicago, and Logan in Boston.

But the little guy on the ferry has no such chance of beating the system.

French citizen Raymond Lebrun had purchased duty-free cigarettes for 120 francs (NIS 70) that would have cost him 180 francs (NIS 105) at home. Lebrun lamented the idea of bringing the savings to an end. "It's bad because it's a good deal for everybody," Lebrun said. "There are a lot of English people on board, and it's even better for them than for us." (AP)

Airborne meditation

By AMY KLEIN

Ever studied the birds? Ever followed the way they glide effortlessly through the sky, then hover in the air, seemingly watching the world - including us - from afar?

If you have ever wanted to fly, dream of soaring through the sunny blue without a care in the world, try paragliding.

Off the cliffs of the Netanya coast, above the sapphire sea and the sparkling sand, you'll find one of the country's many paragliding venues - and the only place an amateur can get a taste of the pursuit, with a tandem jump.

There the gliders unfurl their resplendent wings, an elliptical parachute that rises a mere 160 meters above the ground - high enough to take your breath away, low enough to wave to sunbathers.

Paragliding is a cross between parasailing and hang gliding.

You wear a parachute, but you are not attached to any land mechanism, and you don't jump off a cliff but let the wind lift you off the land, leaving you in control to ride the winds.

Paragliding is unlike other adventure sports such as bungee jumping, skydiving or cliff jumping - where the thrill is in the drop.

For the paraglider, there is no crazy jump, screaming descent or cranking wind. The thrill lies in the utter tranquility. It's airborne meditation, stopping the world and watching it go by.

You step into a soft, seat-like harness (a double seat with the instructor if it's tandem). The colorful parachute is laid before you on the grass, each of the strings straightened, ready to do its job.

You wait for the right winds: enough to lift you - but not too strong - and hold on to the handles attached to the parachute. You take a few running steps, lifting the chute off the ground. The wind infuses it, like puffy cheeks.

It might take a few tries, but when the right wind comes around, you'll feel it: your feet will no longer be on the ground. You'll be sitting comfortably, watching the beach below. Like a Cessna coasting the clouds, it all seems natural. Pull on the left cord - the wind catches it and turns you right (and vice versa). Let the handles up, slackening the chute, and you'll soar higher.

Gliding along the coastline, I had virtually nothing to do but enjoy the equanimity: the serene sound of the water, the endless blue of the sky, the sculpted edges of the dune-like cliffs, and other paragliding passers-by. If your stomach is strong, you can swoop down like an eagle to touch the water or the land and have a picture taken close up. Or you can do a quick revolution.

But this isn't a sport for revolutionaries. It's for those who like Thoreau, walks in the woods, and cosmic perspective.

ISRAEL is one of the few spots in the world where you can paraglide all year round, with good weather. Most of the sites are in the north. (Check out the website of the Israel Paragliding Association at www.geocities.com/Colosseum/Field/9422/index.html)

There are three paragliding schools in Israel: Bat Yam, Tel Aviv and Netanya. A course which will earn you an internationally accepted paragliding license - at the Agur paragliding and hanggliding school in Bat Yam, for example - costs \$660 and includes 12 jumps.

If all you want is an afternoon of paragliding, then head to Bat Yam beach (take the number 46 bus from Tel Aviv's central bus station). For NIS 250, you can take a tandem flight (350 NIS for a motorized flight). All in all, it's a small price to pay for a taste of freedom.

For more information call: Agur (Bat Yam) at 03-506-7467; Wings (Tel Aviv) at 03-699-0628; Arriba (Netanya) at 09-884-0010.

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Bridge East vs. West

By MATTHEW GRANOVETTER

China Cards

North dealer
Neither side vulnerable

North
♠ 9 8 7 6
♥ 9 8 6 5
♦ 3
♣ Q 10 9 4

West East
♠ A J 2 ♠ Q 5 3
♥ 4 ♥ A J 10 2
♦ Q 10 8 7 2 ♦ A J 9 6 4
♣ A 8 7 6 ♣ 2

South
♠ K 10 4
♥ K Q 7 3
♦ K 5
♣ K J 5 3

Open Room
West North East South
Woodbridge Li Carmichael Chen
- pass 1 D double
redouble pass pass 1 ♠
2 ♣ 2 ♠ 5 ♣ (all pass)

Closed Room
West North East South
Yen Willenken Zhang Greco
- pass 1 ♠ 1 NT
double redouble pass 2 ♣
double (all pass)

Though the game of bridge has lost some popularity in America over the last two decades, it has gained fans in Europe and Asia. Teams from Asia especially have done well in world championships, Indonesia coming second to France in last year's World Olympiad, and China placing second to the United States in the women's division. The government of Indonesia was so enthralled with their result that it hired bridge expert Eric Kokish, of Montreal, to spend two years there as a coach.

Meanwhile, in China, one of the biggest commercial events of the bridge calendar started this week in Hong Kong: the Marlboro Cup. The popularity of bridge in China can be attributed to the official approval from the late leader, Deng Xiaoping, and a frequent visitor to China, Kathie Wei-Sender, who is defending first place in the Marlboro. Wei-Sender used to play with Deng and other Chinese leaders in the Great Hall, where a special table was set up for bridge games. China is estimated to have more than a million players.

Today's deal is from the Junior World Team Championships held this summer in Hamilton, Canada.

It is from the match between the US and China, and demonstrates how the level of play in China has increased significantly. When inexperienced teams are successful in the world of bridge, it's usually because they are playing a superior bidding system, such as Wei-Sender's Precision Club System. Bidding can be translated into a science. If you can reach the best contract on most deals, you rate to defeat your opponents even if they are superior at the cardplay. But in this case, China gained because of a wise opening lead.

At both tables, East began with an opening one-diamond bid. In the Open Room, Chen (South) doubled for takeout and Woodbridge (West) redoubled to show 10 or more points. When this was passed around to South, he bid one heart and West showed his diamond support. North raised to two hearts, which helped East envision his partner's singleton heart. East went straight to game in diamonds. South led the king of hearts, and the American declarer was able to make an overruff. He won the ace of hearts and led the jack for a ruffing finesse. This set up the 10 of hearts for a discard of a spade, and later a spade finesse eliminated any losers in that suit. The only trick lost in five diamonds was the diamond finesse to South's king.

The score of 420 points in the Open Room looked good for the Americans, but the Chinese did 80 points better. In the Closed Room, Greco (South) overcalled one notrump and Yen (West) doubled. Willenken (North) came to his partner's rescue with a redouble, which meant: "Help! Let's get out of this contract." South ran to two clubs and West doubled again. Two clubs doubled became the final contract.

The normal lead against a suit contract is a singleton. If Yen had led his singleton four of hearts, he would have ruffed the second round of hearts, led a diamond to East's ace and scored another heart ruff. These four tricks plus two spade tricks and the club ace would have meant down two, for a score of 300 points. Yen did better. He led a trump, an opening lead used primarily by the very top experts. Declarer was now in big trouble. The best he could do was win in dummy and lead a heart to the king and then a diamond. West gained the lead and led ace and another club. Declarer was able to ruff a diamond in dummy but he finished with only five tricks, for down three and 500 points to China.



Weekender Leisure



Survival of the fitting

Flair

By GREER FAY CASHMAN

What do shoulder pads and hemlines have in common? Answer: Survival.

Anyone listening to the pundits over the past decade has heard countless predictions about the demise of the miniskirt - and it's still with us, even though hemlines tend to drop from time to time.

Similarly, the pundits have been telling us that it's bye-bye to shoulder pads - and indeed there was a very valiant attempt this summer to get rid of them. But it was only a brief respite or, more accurately, a turning point in emphasis. Yes, huge exaggerated padding is definitely out, but smaller, well-defined shoulder pads are integral to almost every major collection in Europe and the US.

Gucci's golden boy Tom Ford is so keen on padding that everything in the collection that has a sleeve also has a shoulder pad, including T-shirts, blouses and sweaters.

Aside from minis and shoulder pads, the greatest survivor on the fashion merry-go-round is the little black dress, which comes bouncing back season after season.

If you were hoping for some colorful relief in fall and winter, after a summer dominated by black cocktail and evening wear, you can almost, but not quite, forget it. Ford places considerable emphasis on black evening gowns, adding pizzazz with patent leather trims and stiletto-heeled shoes.

Donna Karan is also well disposed to black and charcoal grays, which create a sense of mystique. She's fond of high skirts, low necklines and bare shoulders, all of which add to the seductive quality of her designs.

Israel's own Albert Elbaz, the head designer at Guy Laroche, has been careful not to make too many waves in his relatively new post, and has followed the master's tradition vis-à-vis the little black dress, while adding his own touch of long skirts paired with elegant sweaters for formal occasions.

Karl Lagerfeld has one of the most colorful collections, his memorable farewell effort for the House of Chloe. Although he tends to focus on browns and grays, he's also introduced a coppery orange. His silhouettes run the gamut from severe tailoring to loose, bias-cut dresses. Shoulder lines in his coats, jackets and dresses are strong.

Giorgio Armani's mix-and-match offerings are a true study in contrast, aimed at giving more

women the courage to experiment so that their outfits somehow reflect their personalities. Like many of his contemporaries, Armani uses mannish fabrics for pants and suits, but likes to pair sharply cut trousers and skirts with soft printed jackets.

Accessories are sometimes more exciting than the clothes themselves. Although stiletto heels may not be good for the feet (unless you happen to have extraordinarily high arches), they do look gorgeous; and if they happen to be comfortable, they make you feel like a million dollars because you're standing taller and your legs look better.

Trendsetter Maria Theresa Fendi is showing bags in varying sizes, from tiny little clutch purses to big roomy shoulder bags, mostly in soft suedes, iridescent python, cut velvet and Persian lamb, with sequin trims, lots of buckles and zippers, metal chains and enamel clasps.

Patchwork, which is increasingly surfacing in fashions from India, has also made its way to Milan and features prominently in Fendi's bags and matching shoes.

While Italian, French, British, German, American and Japanese designers continue to enter the lexicon of international household words, the list is on the verge of expansion and will soon include several East Europeans. After riding themselves of the communist yoke, and the drab dressing that went with it, East European designers are demonstrating that they have just as much flair and quality consciousness as their rivals in the West.

Well worth watching are Romanian designers Janine Stefan and Doina Levintza. Stefan's suits are on a par with the best that Paris has to offer, and Levintza, who specializes in evening wear, already wowed New York in May of this year.

A little more exposure beyond their home turf is all they need to become part of the fashion celebrity circuit.



(Clockwise from top) Giorgio Armani's mix-and-match pieces encourage women to experiment and reflect their personality through their outfits; Romanian fashion designer Doina Levintza, making noise in New York, adjusts a bridal dress in her workshop; a model dons a unique suit by Janine Stefan, another East European gaining ground on the international fashion scene.

Chess Playing the circuit

By NIGEL SHORT

The Lancashire Chess Association is planning to organize a match between Michael Adams and myself in October as part of its 100th anniversary celebrations this year.

Historically, my home country has produced a number of enterprising players, but few have had the impact of Joseph Henry Blackburne, the strongest Briton in the latter half of the 19th century. According to the authoritative *Oxford Companion to Chess* by Hooper and Whyld, Blackburne ranked among the top six players in the world for about 20 years. His victims included champions such as Steinitz and Lasker.

I must admire the fact that he managed to be a chess professional for more than 50 years, supporting himself largely by giving simultaneous exhibitions to supplement his meager tournament income. For this he had to travel incessantly up and down the country, where he cut a popular figure in the various clubs, joking with his opponents.

This game, one of eight played blindfolded simultaneously in the town of my birth, is a fairly characteristic Blackburne effort: a little risky perhaps, but displaying all the hallmarks of his attacking ingenuity.

White: Blackburne
Black: Frankland
Leigh, Lancs, 1879

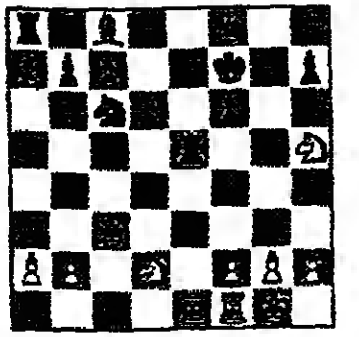
1. e4 e5 2. d4 exd4 3. c3 dxc3 4. Bc4. The Danish Gambit is little seen nowadays. It is a shame, really, as it is by no means lacking in venom. 4...Be5? This move cannot be good. The main theoretical continuation is the following slightly absurd sequence: 4...cxb2 5. Bxb2 d5 6. Bxd5 Nf6 7. Bxf7+ Kxf7 8. Qxd8 Bb4+ 9. Qd2 Bxd2+ 10. Nxd2 which is supposed to be equal, but I believe White could well stand better. I guess that all this means is that nobody has analyzed it much. It would be strange if Black's strongest continuation was to jettison his own two-pawn

advantage immediately. 5...Bxf7+ Kxf7 6. Qd5+ Kf8 7. Qxc5+ Qe7 8. Qxc3. Ambitious. 8...Qxe7+ promised a safe, small advantage but that would be too boring, wouldn't it?

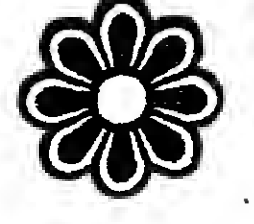
3...Qxe4+ 9. Ne2 Nc6 10. Be3 Nf6 10...Qb4? 11. Be5+ or 10...Qxg2?? 11. Rg1 were well avoided. 11. Nd2 Qe7 12. 0-0 Kf7. Black intends to castle by hand. White must act quickly to make the most of his slight development lead. 13. Ng3 Re8 14. Rael d6 15. Bg5? Typical Blackburne. Most players would no doubt prefer the more subdued 15. Nf3 with a continuing initiative.

15...Qf8? 15...Qxe1 16. Rxe1 Rxe1+ 17. Ndf1 Re6 18. Ne3 was the critical test. The queen and knights would combine well against the vulnerable king, eg 18...Bd7 19. Bxf6 and it is difficult to recapture sensibly 19...Rxf6 20. Nh5 16. Bxf6 gxf6 17. Nh5. Now the threats become distinctly ominous. 17...Re5.

18. Nxf6. Simple and effective, the king's position is shredded. 18...Bf5 18...Kxf6 19. f4 is a brutal pin. 19. f4 Re6 20. Rxe6 Kxe6 21. Re1+ Kf7 22. Nfch7+. Piling on the suffering. The knight is immune due to the fork on e6. 24...Kg8 25. Nf6+ Kf8 26. g4 Bxg4. Hopeless, but there was no square for the bishop. 27. Nxd4 Qxc5 28. hxc3 Re8 29. Nh2+ Kf7 30. Nh6+. Winning a rook for a knight and compounding the massive material deficit. Black, quite correctly, resigned.



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Labor disruptions expected

News agencies

Some 17,000 workers at various workplaces throughout the country will take time off from work today to attend explanatory meetings on the adverse effects of the government's economic policy.

The Histadrut decided last night that such meetings would be held at Israel Railroads, the ports of Haifa and Ashdod, the Defense Ministry, the Bromide Works in Beersheba, Delta, and other workplaces.

Treasury Director-General Shmuel Slavin charged that by concentrating on defending the stronger sections of the workforce, the Histadrut is damaging the weaker sections and increasing the gap between the two.

Meanwhile, workers at income and property tax offices shut their doors to the public yesterday in a dispute over wages, a Histadrut official said.

The workers refrained from all "outside work" including investigations. They refused to speak to the public, deal with mail, or answer telephones.

A Histadrut spokesman said the action, which is to continue today, is not related to a wider dispute between the Histadrut and the Treasury over planned reforms of the economy.

But another said if it were not for the overall dispute, the tax workers might not have undertaken sanctions.

The Histadrut has threatened a general strike over government plans to reform the pension system and implement structural changes in the economy. It has said the strike could come at any time.

Treasury and Histadrut officials met on yesterday in yet another attempt to avert a general strike but made no progress.

"There was no meaningful progress," said Shlomo Shaol, head of the Histadrut's Trade Union Division.

The Treasury issued a statement after the meeting that said: "The Treasury again calls on the Histadrut to adopt the comprehensive view for the good of the economy and the public." The sides are to meet again today.



The Galaxy, which Israel Aircraft Industries developed with the Hyatt Corp., is to be unveiled tonight near Ben-Gurion Airport. The executive jet will sell for about \$16 million. (Reuters)

IAI unveils Galaxy executive jet

By STEVE RODAN

Ten years after it was forced to abandon the Lavi, Israel Aircraft Industries will unveil a new jet, which the state company hopes will revolutionize the industry.

Unlike the Lavi, the Galaxy business jet is not a warplane and for IAI tonight's rollout of the new executive plane marks a major investment in a civilian project.

"We have a new baby," IAI president Moshe Keret said at a news conference yesterday to announce the Galaxy. "It's a big and very beautiful baby. Nothing gives us greater satisfaction than to see a new aircraft roll off an assembly line here."

The Galaxy will emerge for its first public debut from an IAI hangar outside Ben-Gurion

Airport in front of an expected audience of 1,500 people, including Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu, President Ezer Weizman and Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai, as well as the leaders of the nation's aviation industry.

The executive jet can seat between eight and 19 passengers, depending on the configuration of the interior. With a range of 3,620 nautical miles, the Galaxy can fly non-stop from Paris to New York. Its cruising speed is 871 kilometers per hour.

The Galaxy, a \$150 million investment in design and production, is a joint venture between IAI and the Hyatt Corp., the hotel chain owned by the Chicago-based Pritzker Group. The plane will be marketed and maintained by Galaxy Aerospace Corp.,

based in Fort Worth, Texas.

"In essence, it's a marriage of US capital and marketing expertise and Israeli human and technical resources," Galaxy president Brian Barents said.

The Galaxy project was begun in 1992 and was plagued by delays until the Hyatt Corp. entered the partnership and provided the funding and US management that IAI says will ensure sales of both Galaxy as well as the Astra SPX mid-sized executive jet, which has been in operation for about a decade.

Barents said Galaxy aims to be a leader in the mid- and large-executive jet field. He said the average age of the 2,600 mid-sized business jets in operation today is 17 years old - meaning that many will be replaced in the coming years.

"We start on a strong financial footing," Barents said. "We have a strong balance sheet and strong sales. Our corporate strategy is to be a market leader in all the markets we serve."

Industry sources told *The Jerusalem Post* that IAI and Galaxy executives debated the location of the rollout. Some executives urged that the rollout take place in Dallas later this month, during a huge aviation show there. But they concluded that the plane could not be sent over and assembled in time for the convention.

IAI executives said Galaxy already has been purchased, representing growth in the company's civilian sector. They said 1997 will record a profit for IAI as well as a record of \$3.5 billion of backlog orders.

MKs to fight aid cuts to development towns

News agencies

The social issues and development towns caucuses in the Knesset said yesterday they would act on all levels to torpedo Tuesday's revamping of the map of priority development areas by the Ministerial Committee on Economics.

MK Shalom Simhon, the secretary-general of the agricultural center, said yesterday that the new map is another step in the desertion of agriculture, industry and tourism in the periphery. Simhon stated that the plan essentially cancels the Galilee Law, which aids farmers in the

North.

"This decision stinks of politics and it is impossible that the settlements that carry the burden of defense for residents of Ramat Aviv will be abandoned by the heads of the Finance Ministry," said Simhon.

Meanwhile, the Industry and Trade Ministry clarified that the Law for Encouraging Investment had not been changed, and the list of locales in which incentives are granted remains the same. The law and its list of classifications was extended for another two years, while Jerusalem's priority status was extended for five years.

Debate rages over Vilna Gaon conference

By ELLI WOHLGELERWITZ

What would ordinarily be a commemorative event marking the 200th anniversary of the death of one of the greatest talmudic scholars in Jewish history has turned into a political football, with some Jewish groups calling for a boycott of the event, and Lithuanian counter demands for legal action against that recommendation.

The scholar is the Vilna Gaon, whose *yahrzeit* will be marked with a six-day commemoration beginning on Tuesday, being organized by the Lithuanian Jewish

community with substantial support from the Lithuanian government.

But the Association of Lithuanian Jewry and the Simon Wiesenthal Center have called for a boycott of the event, saying that Lithuania has done nothing to prosecute ex-Nazis, as President Algirdas Brazauskas promised before the Knesset in March 1995, and that participation in the event would be seen as support for the government.

"The participation of Israeli personalities and American Jewish groups in these events will undermine the current campaign to

influence Lithuania to face its murderous past honestly," said Efraim Zuroff, head of the Israel office of the Wiesenthal Center, "and will be exploited by the Lithuanians in their efforts to obtain NATO and European membership."

"Our opposition to the events, which is fully supported by the Association of Lithuanian Jews, the worldwide representative body of the Lithuanian Jewish community, constitutes a legitimate response to the total failure of the Lithuanian government to keep the promises it made to prosecute Nazi murderers and cancel the

rehabilitations it granted to Holocaust perpetrators."

A member of Lithuania's parliament, Rimantas Smetona, asked his country's prosecutor-general to initiate legal action against Zuroff, to evaluate whether his comments are slanderous, as they damage Lithuania's prestige and insult the Lithuanian nation.

"I think Zuroff, being a Jewish extremist, is in no way contributing to Israel's positive image," Smetona was quoted as saying, adding that the Wiesenthal Center, "under the cover of justice, is seeking blind, black revenge." Over 200,000 Jews, more than

90 percent of the country's Jewish community, perished in the Holocaust. There are between 5,000 and 10,000 Jews now living in Lithuania.

Brazauskas said in a news conference last month that Zuroff's call for a boycott does not help efforts to improve Israel-Lithuanian ties.

"Lithuania is trying to maintain good links with Israel as possible, and regrets involvement of some Lithuanians in the Jewish genocide during World War II."

Lithuanian Ambassador Romas Misiunas said the celebration is not an attempt to bypass the ques-

tions that have been raised over the prosecution of ex-Nazis.

"Those problems exist and they are going to be taken care of in their own right," Misiunas said from his home in Vilnius.

"This sort of celebration is not exclusively a Gaon or Jewish one; there have been others for prominent cultural figures of the past. The two are basically not related, although the people who raised the issue would like to relate them."

"The other thing is, I tend to view this call for boycott also, in a sense, as an insult to the Jewish community here in Lithuania, because it's largely their affair. The government has decided to support that, through the ministry of culture, and the president will attend the opening ceremony. It is not planned as an event to deflect attention from the other issues. It never was."

Misiunas said that the bitch in the most prominent ex-Nazi case, that of Aleksandras Lileikis, was close to being resolved in parliament, and Lileikis would shortly be brought to court for prosecution.

To date, no legal action has been taken against five alleged war criminals, including Lileikis, who were stripped of their US citizenship and deported or fled to Lithuania in recent years. As for the idea of a parliamentarian suing Zuroff in Lithuania, Misiunas called it "absolutely insane," and said that if Smetona is serious he should sue in an Israeli court.

"What Zuroff said he said in Israel, and if there is any cause for slander or that sort of thing, it should be done in the place where the crime supposedly was committed. That's why I think the whole thing was pretty silly," he said.

Yosef Melamed, chairman of the Association of Lithuanian Jewry, said it is "hypocrisy" and "chutzpa" to call the Vilna Gaon part of Lithuania's heritage. "Where is the Lithuanian heritage here? They themselves don't want it, and they don't need it."

Melamed said it is especially shameful for rabbis, most prominent among them She'ar-Yashuv Cohen, the chief rabbi of Haifa, "to go over to this place, when they know that the blood [of Holocaust victims] is still wet. It would be OK if Lithuania asked forgiveness, and said this is one of the ways in which to ask forgiveness. If they did at least this, we wouldn't be against it. They are organizing this not only for economic reasons, but especially for their image."

WEATHER Golden 17-26

Haifa 22-30 Tibérias 23-36

Afula 21-32

Samaría 19-25

Tel Aviv 24-29

Jerusalem 18-28

Beersheba 20-32

Dead Sea 27-36

Eilat 23-38

Forecast: Partly cloudy to clear
Slight rise in temperature.

AROUND THE WORLD

	LOW	HIGH	WIND	SEA
Amsterdam	09	48	25	77
Berlin	15	59	27	81
Buenos Aires	09	46	15	59
Caro	21	70	21	88
Chicago	14	50	24	75
Copenhagen	16	61	26	79
Frankfurt	16	61	26	79
Geneva	16	61	26	79
Helsinki	04	39	17	73
Hong Kong	27	81	29	84
Jakarta	04	39	17	73
London	16	61	26	79
Los Angeles	06	43	09	40
Moscow	16	61	26	79
New York	22	72	28	83
Nice	19	66	27	81
Paris	14	57	21	76
Rome	18	66	29	84
Stockholm	18	64	24	75
Sydney	13	56	20	74
Taipei	27	81	29	84
Toronto	10	50	24	75
Vancouver	12	54	25	78
Zurich	16	61	26	79

Winning cards

In yesterday's daily Chance drawings, the winning cards were the 8 of spades, ace of hearts, ace of diamonds, and 8 of clubs, and the 10 of spades, queen of hearts, 7 of diamonds, and 7 of clubs.

Barak accused of hiding financial info from party

By SARAH HONIG

Labor chairman Ehud Barak has been accused of deliberately censoring major portions of the report on the party's financial state on the eve of this afternoon's session of the party political bureau and central committee, which are slated to address the party's financial status.

It was on the basis of the report, compiled by former MK Gedalya Gal, that Barak decided last month to summarily sack half of the 70 long-time employees at the Labor Tel Aviv headquarters. Barak had since suspended the dismissal notices, as a compromise with the Labor staff is still being sought.

The Gal report is said to have assessed that Labor is over NIS 80 million in the red.

The bureau members, who were supposed to have studied the report prior to today's deliberation, received it a day before the bureau session, and were surprised to find that most of it was missing. They received pages one through six and page 30. Pages seven through 29 were missing.

This, as well as the charge that the members were not given the reports sufficiently in advance of the meeting, raised a cry in Labor yesterday. Charges abounded among bureau members that some sort of a cover-up or a move to deny them information is being attempted.

Among the suspicions entertained in Labor in recent days is that Barak may seek to ram through the central committee decisions which would facilitate his aim of altering the party's structure, including the appointment of a technocrat director-general, rather than a politically elected secretary-general, as had been the case thus far.

Labor sources say that opposition to this is gaining momentum in the party and that there would be stiff resistance to any attempt to touch upon the issue in any forum other than the scheduled October convention.

Meanwhile, Barak yesterday proposed a plan to break the deadlock in talks with the Palestinian Authority. To his mind, the US and Israel ought to agree on the precise steps which the PA should undertake in order to deal with Islamic fanatics. In return, Israel would freeze construction at Har Homa-Israel and the Americans, according to Barak's blueprint, also should agree on the agenda for the final status talks.

This proposal was roundly dismissed by the Prime Minister's Office, where it was suggested that Barak is seeking to divert attention from the dismissals.

Barak yesterday met with his predecessor Shimon Peres at Peres's Tel Aviv bureau.

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